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Khorafi to meet dealers

AN important meeting will take place today between Finance Minister Jasssem Al Khorafi, stock market dealers and representatives of companies managing investment portfolios. It seems that the aim of the meeting is to study the mechanism of financial portfolios in the stock market. The participants will also review the performance of these portfolios in the past and what should be done during 1988 to create a stable market.

Stability
In 1980, 1986 and even last year, the Kuwait Stock Exchange witnessed a kind of stability that the government considers good, and wishes to see it continue this year also.

The finance minister will hear the views of dealers and other representatives on these issues during the meeting. The dealers have a number of ideas and views and it seems that the finance minister is ready to take these into consideration, provided these can keep up the dynamic trading in the market.

Bomb kills 3
DHAKA, Feb 28, (AP): Bomb explosions in downtown Dhaka killed three people today as opposition protesters set vehicles ablaze to protest parliamentary elections, an opposition leader said. (See Page 2)

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7,8,9
Business	10
Currencies	11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

تاریخ اور صفحات میں
● قاتل اقامہ میں ترمیم
● جرمی کی رقم دو سو تار کی
● مقبوضہ علاقوں میں دوسری
● فلسطینی نوجوان ہلاک
● بنگلہ دیش میں پولیس کی
● فائرنگ سے تین افراد ہلاک
● میرپر خاص میں پولیس سے
● ہندوؤں کا قتل عام
● کیت میں ایک بس کنڈکٹر کو
● قتل کر دیا گیا
● طبیعت و طبیعت

WEATHER

CLOUDS will increase gradually with moderate southeasterly wind may freshen at times.
State of sea: slight to rough
High water: 7.30 am, 9.00 pm
Low water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.16 am
Sunset: 5.47 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmed: 21°C 70°F
Faiyaka: 23°C 73°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 26°C 79°F
Ahmed: 23°C 73°F
Faiyaka: 24°C 75°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 11°C 52°F
Ahmed: 15°C 59°F
Faiyaka: 14°C 57°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 57 per cent
Ahmed: 71 per cent
Faiyaka: 75 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 85 per cent
Ahmed: 89 per cent
Faiyaka: 90 per cent

Residence Law amended

Fine for delay in renewal reduced

VIOLATORS of the Foreigners Residence Law will now have to pay a fine of only KD2 for each day's delay in renewing their regular or temporary residence permits, instead of KD100 for delay of each month or part of a month.

According to an amendment of the Residence Law, that was published in the official gazette, the Immigration Department will count the fines on the basis of the number of days delayed and not months or part of a month as before.

Fine
An explanatory note attached to the amendment said that in the previous article the amount of the fine was the same whether the violation was for a day or a month. The daily basis was adopted in order to encourage violators to sort out their papers quickly.

However, the fine for over-staying on a visit visa will remain at KD10 per day of overstay.

The amendment on the fines for delay in renewing regular or temporary residence permits came after the Council of Ministers discussed the consequences of implementing the new amendments, in accordance with the instructions of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Conferral
Sheikh Saad conferred with the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and senior ministry officials on Feb 17, and gave instructions to reduce the fines and advise on ways of facilitating the procedures for residence permits.

Sheikh Saad also instructed the ministry to open more offices of the personal identification department, which provides good conduct certificates, in various governorates.

Sheikh Salem earlier said his ministry will implement Sheikh Saad's directives - once experts completed amendment of the article on fines.

An Immigration Department official was reported by newspapers as saying that the Interior Ministry will not impose fines on those who have submitted their renewal papers before the expiry date - if the delay was being caused by his ministry.

Man threatens to blow up his flat

By Fathima Ahmed
A MENTALLY unstable Indian, who threatened to blow up his flat in Salmiya, was yesterday subdued by a psychiatrist.

No one was hurt in the drama but there was a great deal of tension as policemen once tried to open the door of the room, inside which Anthony Ferrao, a Goan, locked himself up. The drama continued from about 7 am to 11.45 am.

The 56-year-old Ferrao threw out his wife and two sons in the early hours yesterday and did not allow anyone to come near his room.

He had placed a gas cylinder and a knife in the room and threatened to blow up the building or stab himself and anyone who went near him.

Ferrao was in a delirious state and had been speaking incoherently about fighting alongside the Americans in the Vietnam war.

After police officials and firemen failed to bring him out, a doctor from the psychiatric hospital, who had been treating Ferrao for over a year, was called.

War of the cities may resume

NICOSIA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Iran and Iraq accused each other today of hitting civilian targets in their 7-1/2-year-old war and both said they would attack towns and cities in reprisal.

Diplomats in the region said they feared a full-scale resumption of the "war of the cities" in which thousands of civilians were killed earlier in the war when Iran and Iraq launched air, artillery and missile strikes on cities.

Reprisal
Tehran Radio, said Iranian jets bombed a petrochemical plant and other targets near the southern Iraqi city of Basra today in retaliation for Iraqi air raids which killed 26 Iranians.

In Baghdad, a military communiqué said Iraqi missiles, aircraft and artillery would bombard all Iranian towns and cities until further notice in retaliation for Iranian attacks on its border towns.

IRAQ said its warplanes attacked two Iranian towns on Sunday night. A high command communiqué said Iraqi warplanes attacked the southern town of Dezful and the western town of Hamadan at 9 pm (1800 GMT).

The diplomats noted that the tone of the threats and counter-charges was reminiscent of the war of the cities, which ended by mutual but unofficial agreement early last year.

Iran threatened reprisal attacks on Baghdad and Basra for an Iraqi air raid which it said killed 25 civilians and injured many others in the western Kurdish town of Saqqez yesterday. Baghdad denied its jets attacked Saqqez.

Iran also said one person was killed and several injured in an Iraqi raid on an area near Tehran. Iraq said its jets set ablaze a major oil refinery in the raid as part of its policy to destroy Iran's economic installations.

Tehran residents reported black smoke rising from the direction of Rey refinery, south of the Iranian capital, for at least two hours after the Iraqi attack. "Everybody saw the smoke," said one foreign businessman in Tehran contacted by telephone.

Iran threatened reprisal attacks on Baghdad and Basra



A Palestinian girl is helped by relatives after being hit by rubber bullets fired by Israeli troops. (Reuters wirephoto)

Passenger kills bus conductor

A BUS conductor of Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) was stabbed to death by a passenger on Thursday evening, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

The Egyptian conductor, Hassan S., was stabbed by an Indian passenger, Francis R., after a quarrel. Francis took out a knife and stabbed the conductor several times. The bus driver who intervened, was also injured.

The passenger was arrested and referred to the authorities for investigation.

In another incident, two dead bodies with stab wounds were discovered in an apartment in Salmiya.

The bodies were those of a Jordanian woman, Sana M., and her four-year-old son.

Firemen, who had rushed to the apartment to extinguish a fire, found the two bodies, the Interior Ministry said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem, and the authorities are investigating the case.

Tigers devour man who feeds them

JAKARTA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Six hungry tigers attacked and ate the ranger who was late with their meal at an Indonesian Safari park, witnesses said.

The ranger was on his way to feed the great cats at the West Java Safari park on Thursday when his car broke down in the middle of the tiger compound.

The witnesses said a tiger pounced on 23-year-old Darsono when he climbed out of the car to repair the vehicle. Five other tigers joined in before fellow rangers could save him.

Flights disrupted

ROME, Feb 28, (Reuters): A strike by Italian groundstaff badly disrupted flights by the national carrier Alitalia in and out of Rome today.

Airport officials said only seven European flights were scheduled to leave during the 24-hour stoppage and many domestic departures were also cancelled.

Delay

It said middle-ranking Iranian officials asked the envoy, travelling under the name of Clark, for assurances that any arms embargo against their country would be delayed until early this summer.

"The Iranians asked for a delay in pursuing UN action against their government because of parliamentary elections this April in which the 'moderates' such as Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of Parliament, hope for a sweeping win over their opponents," said the newspaper's undated report.

The Observer said the talks were assumed to have covered the fate of American hostages and that of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, seized by

Israelis kill two youths Death toll now 77

TEL AVIV, Feb 28, (Agencies): Two more Palestinians died, raising the unofficial toll to 77 in 11 weeks of unrest, Palestinian sources said today.

The Army said it was checking the latest report that the two Palestinians died in the occupied West Bank village of Aboud.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) in occupied Jerusalem said the two, cousins aged 17 and 22, were shot and killed when troops fired live ammunition at the village last night.

Shooting
The PPS said Jewish West Bank settlers tried to enter the village last night, but villagers blocked them, and soldiers arrived later in a bus and half-dozen other vehicles.

The news agency said troops lit up the dark village with flares before shooting. It said the two Palestinians, Raed Mahmoud Al Barghouti and Ahmed Ibrahim Al Barghouti, died of gunshot wounds.

Also, the Army said an Arab youth from the village of Halhal, 15 miles (24 kms) south of Jerusalem, died late yesterday from wounds suffered earlier in the day when the Army opened fire to disperse a protest. He was identified as Jamal Al Atrash, 18, who died at Magdass Hospital in east Jerusalem.

Troops placed the village Aboud, under curfew today. They barred reporters from entering the area near the town of Ramallah to investigate the incident.

In Israel proper, a bomb exploded outside a Jewish religious school in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon LeZion, Police said the blast occurred 10 minutes after pupils went home. One was treated for shock.

West Bank commander Major-General Amram Mitzna forced officers to watch a 40-minute film by a US television crew of soldiers using rocks to try to break the limbs of two seated, handcuffed Palestinians, who offered no resistance.

Four soldiers were detained following the incident and their officer was relieved of his command.

Burned

Palestinians burned the homes of two more West Bank Arabs accused of collaborating with Israeli security services following the lynching of an informer last week, security sources said today.

In Jerusalem, the cabinet beard reports on the incident, and ministers from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud bloc urged closing the territories to journalists. No action was taken.

Security forces arrested two American schoolteachers in the West Bank carrying "inciteful materials" but released both after a night in jail, the Army said.

John Benvenuto, 42, of Boston, and Allison Glick, 25, of Cincinnati, were arrested in Ramallah. They carried a list of Palestinians recently killed and materials the Army apparently suspected would be used to make political posters.

US envoy made a secret visit to Iran

LONDON, Feb 28, (Agencies): The Observer newspaper said today that a secret US envoy had visited Tehran to discuss the possibility of re-establishing diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States.

The envoy, apparently a close friend of President Reagan, went two weeks ago to the Iranian capital for the first mission of its kind since the arms-to-Iran scandal, the British Sunday newspaper said.

Consider

In Washington, a State Department official said, the US would consider meeting a Soviet request for another round of diplomacy to halt the Iran-Iraq war if Moscow gives final approval to a United Nations-sponsored arms embargo against Iran.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said over the weekend that US representatives to the UN Security Council signalled their willingness last week to discuss a delay in implementing an embargo 30 to 60 days after it is enacted.

The United States has been pushing the Soviets to agree to a UN embargo resolution, but Soviet delegates have been reluctant to implement one without another diplomatic attempt by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to get Iran to agree to a ceasefire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

Headway made in Egypt

Syria, Jordan rebuff Shultz

CAIRO, Feb 28, (Agencies): US Secretary of State George Shultz, rebuffed by two key Arab countries in his attempt to break up the Middle East negotiating logjam, reportedly made headway in Cairo talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Shultz failed to find any flexibility in either Jordan or Syria on a formula to establish direct negotiations between Israel, its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians. Both Jordan and Syria insist on a direct participation of the PLO, a condition which is not acceptable to Israel.

Shultz held three hours of talks on Middle East peace ideas with Mubarak today and said: "We both feel that we have a package that is promising."

His remarks to reporters indicated he felt he had made some headway in Cairo.

Mission

Shultz and Mubarak, met with aides present for three hours before the Secretary of State flew back to Israel to continue his peace mission.

"As our ideas develop, I think I can say we both feel that we have a package that is promising," Shultz said after the talks at Egypt's presidential palace in suburban Heliopolis.

"At least, we (the United States) think that it is promising. But whether anybody else will think it is promising is a question. But we (the United States) will be working together to make that so," he said.

Mubarak did not speak to reporters after the talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Maguid stood by Shultz as he spoke.

Shultz did not specify details of the package but said the aim of the US-Egyptian talks was a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"That means that we have to consider all the countries involved, we have to consider security issues, we have to consider the Palestinian people, their aspirations, their legitimate

Falled

In Damascus, Shultz and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said yesterday they had failed to reach agreement on the new US peace initiative.

"We expressed our opinion in a frank and open way but no agreement was reached," Shara said.

The PLO has named a delegation of Palestinians from inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories which is prepared to meet Shultz, Arafat said.

Rejecting the US peace plan Arafat said that does not mean the PLO is "hostile to dialogue or is trying to put obstacles in the way of a just and global peace."

Armenians suspend protests for a month

MOSCOW, Feb 28, (Reuters): Calm returned to the southern republic of Armenia today as leaders of protests calling for the redrawing of regional boundaries gave Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev a month's grace to deal with their grievances.

Residents of the republic's capital, Yerevan, said over telephone that the streets were quiet. Moscow Radio said yesterday that leaders of the protests had suspended their mass demonstrations for a month.

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Yerevan last week to demand the return to Soviet Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly-Armenian region administered since 1923 by the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan.

Studying
Two Armenian envoys who outlined the protesters' grievances to Gorbachev said on television in Armenia last evening that the Soviet leader was studying the call to return the disputed region to Armenian control.

Yerevan residents said poet Silva Kaputikyan and writer Zori Balayan told viewers they had spent more than an hour explaining to Gorbachev the history of Nagorno-Karabakh and why Armenians were making claims to it.

Kaputikyan said that this is an old problem and now Armenians are speaking openly because of the atmosphere of glasnost, one resident said. Glasnost is the Kremlin's policy of openness about the country's problems.

Gorbachev promised the Armenian representatives the problem would be "justly solved," the resident said.

Bomb blast

ISTANBUL, Feb 28, (Reuters): A bomb exploded opposite a police post in an Istanbul suburb today, killing one person and injuring another, police said.

Charity house

THE Sabah family will set up a charity house to look after the families of those who died while defending the country, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah told the cabinet yesterday.

The cabinet endorsed a draft decree enshrining the autonomous character of the charity house and praised the gesture which "reflected the love and ties between the Kuwaiti rulers and the people."

Saddam's letter for North Yemen leader

BAGHDAD, Feb 28, (Reuters): Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan left for Sanaa today with a letter from President Saddam Hussein to President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, the Iraqi news agency reported.

It said the letter referred to bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war and the current situation in the Arab region.

DAY BY DAY

IF the new ministers are to make any difference in the ministries they must exercise their roles and introduce administrative changes by changing some officials.

Change means new people and new ideas. Change also reminds officials that their positions are not permanent.

What remains after such changes is improved performance rather than the exploitation of a position for relatives and friends.

If we really want to take advantage of the ministerial changes in the interests of citizens, these changes are necessary.

Zahed Matar

INTERNATIONAL

3 killed as Dhaka police fire on protest march

DHAKA, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Police killed three people when they opened fire on a political protest march in central Dhaka today, opposition parties said.

Police, who refused to confirm the death toll, said they fired 10 shots after homemade bombs were thrown at their lines injuring four policemen.

Both sides said at least 50 people were hurt by the bombs.

Sporadic violence spread to other parts of the city after the shooting, with palls of black smoke marking where cars and mini-buses had been set ablaze.

The violence began when opposition leaders Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina tried to stage separate protest marches demanding the resignation of President Hossein



Hasina

Mohammad Ershad.

Witnesses said supporters of the alliance led by Zia's Bangladesh National Party (BNP) were stopped by police tear gas almost immediately and homemade bombs were thrown.

Police then opened fire. A few hundred yards away, another crowd which had just finished listening to a fiery speech from Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina scattered in panic at the sound of shots.

Hasina's supporters were also tear-gassed.

Hasina and Zia, united in opposition to parliamentary polls called by Ershad for March 3 held simultaneous rallies a short distance apart.

They said Ershad's days as ruler of this impoverished outflow of 110 million people were numbered and called for a total boycott of Thursday's election.

Cheering

"We are assured the cooperation of all people to throw this autocrat out," Hasina told cheering supporters from the back of a truck.

Ershad called the elections after dissolving parliament in December in the face of mounting agitation and strikes by the opposition demanding he hand over power to a caretaker administration.

The president seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982.

24 killed in Philippine weekend clashes

MANILA, Feb. 28. (Agencies): At least 24 people were killed over the weekend in scattered clashes involving government forces, communist rebels and Muslim separatists, military officials said today.

Authorities said 13 government troops — including the son of a regional military commander — were killed yesterday when their truck hit a land mine planted by communist rebels in Albay province, based 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Manila.

It came a week after government troops killed 14 rebels in three encounters in Bicol where many of the interior villages are known to be rebel strongholds in the 19-year insurgency waged by the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The Army poured several battalions into the area late last year after rebels blew up bridges and power pylons and hijacked a passenger train.

The military said government troops killed six Muslim separatist rebels on Friday in a two-hour gun battle in Sultan Kudarat in the province of Lanao del Sur on the southern island of Mindanao.

Two policemen were killed and their commanding officer wounded in an ambush by communist New People's Army rebels early yesterday in the central island of Bohol, authorities said.

Uprising

In Santa Ana town in Cagayan province, 270 miles (435 km) north of Manila, coastguards killed three communist guerrillas on Friday. Police said two government troops were wounded.

Hundreds of people fearing an uprising of violence in Lanao del Norte province have fled remote coastal villages, a military spokesman said.

Li Col Saturnino Justo said the civilians fled after armed rebels of the Muslim separatist Moro National Liberation Front entered the villages.

The group has threatened to launch attacks on Mindanao, 500 miles (800 km) south of Manila to back its bid for membership in the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Countries, which is scheduled to meet in Jordan next month.

Sri Lankan government in contact with rebels

Secret talks harm accord: India

COLOMBO, Feb. 28. (Agencies): India's highest ranking diplomat in Sri Lanka said yesterday that secret negotiations between Sri Lankan officials and Tamil militants are undermining the India-brokered peace accord to end the island's ethnic strife.

J N Dixit, the Indian High Commissioner, told a news conference that India would not be pressured into any decision outside the parameters of the July 29 accord.

He also disclosed that more than 400 Indian peacekeeping soldiers have died in Sri Lanka since last October. The last official statement had put the death toll at 363.

Proposals

Dixit said India learned that some Sri Lankan officials were talking with members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful rebel group. The Tigers oppose the accord and have refused to lay down their weapons.

"We have been taking aback

by these proposals," Dixit said. "From what we heard of them, they are not only extraordinary but erode the elementary basis of the Indo-Lankan peace accord and the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Tamil people in the future."

He said his information indicated that instead of insisting on a surrender of weapons and compliance with the pact, Sri Lankan officials and Tamils were discussing a compromise.

It apparently would require the Tiger fighters to leave the eastern province, but allow them to regroup in the north and keep their weapons, he said. The rebels also would be called to participate in an interim government in the region, even without endorsing the peace pact, he added.

Under the terms of the accord, the rebels were to give up arms in exchange for limited autonomy in the northern and eastern provinces.

Sri Lanka had agreed to hold elections to provincial councils

by Dec 31, 1987 and grant them limited autonomy from the federal government.

Sri Lanka's National Security Minister Lalith Athulathudali told Parliament last Thursday that secret contacts had been established between the government and Tamil Tigers. He did not reveal details of the contacts.

"India has certainly no objections to such discussions, but they must be within the framework of the Indo-Lanka accord. There cannot be any unilateral discussion," Dixit said.

He said he had met President Junius R Jayewardene on Thursday to express India's concern about the developments and the President had assured him that nothing would be done outside the terms of the accord.

Vowed

Jayewardene today vowed to crush Marxist rebels in Sri Lanka's eastern province.

"The government has controlled terrorism in the south. We will do the same in Ampara district in the next few weeks," Jayewardene said after opening a Buddhist shrine at Ampara.

Security was tight during Jayewardene's first visit in five years to this district which has been hit by both Tamil separatist violence and Marxist rebel activity.

Jayewardene said his offer of an amnesty to the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) — People's Liberation Front — was available only if they renounced violence.

The JVP operates largely in the south and in some predominantly Sinhalese areas in Ampara where Tamils and Muslims also live.

Death fast

The Marxist group has been blamed for killing government and opposition politicians who supported the pact.

In eastern Batticaloa, Lodian troops ringed a Hindu temple today where two women are in the ninth day of a death fast to press demands for an end to fighting between troops and Tamil rebels.

About 50,000 Lodian soldiers have been sent to Sri Lanka to disarm the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who reject July's accord.

Doctors who examined the women — Davi Annamma, 58, and Vadivel Nesamma, 50 — said they were very weak, unable to speak and may lapse into a coma in three or four days, according to Batticaloa residents.

A resident, who declined to be named, said a curfew had been imposed in the district probably to prevent people flocking to the temple to support the two women.

On Saturday, Tamil guerrillas set off a mine under a truck killing five Lodian soldiers and wounding 16 in Mutur in eastern Trincomalee district, military officials said.

Officials earlier reported three soldiers were killed, but said later two more had died in hospital.

Tiger rebels also killed two Sinhalese villagers at Polonnaruwa in north-central province yesterday, officials said.

Riot over Hindu girl's abduction in Sind

KARACHI, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Two people were killed and 23 wounded when 10,000 Hindus attacked government offices and fought police over the reported abduction of a Hindu girl in Sind, southern Pakistan.

A government statement said the crowd was incited by reports that 16-year-old Seeta had been kidnapped by a Muslim landlord and converted to Islam before a magistrate at Mirpurkhas, near the Indian border.

An armed crowd demanding her recovery attacked police and tried to set fire to government offices. Police fired tear gas without effect and the crowd, swollen to 10,000, opened fire and wounded 11 constables.

Detained

Local leaders said police rounded up over 100 Hindus. Police said they detained only a few for questioning.

In Karachi, gunmen killed a teacher and wounded another in an attack on a school at Shah Faisal suburb yesterday. They later wounded four at the suburb's rail station.

Authorities lifted a 39-day curfew on Shah Faisal, near the airport, on Thursday. It was imposed on January 18 after three people were killed in ethnic riots.

Animal attacks

NAIROBI, Feb. 28. (AP): Ram-paging elephants trampled a man to death in southeastern Kenya, and a hippopotamus injured a bicyclist on the capital's outskirts, the Daily Nation newspaper reported today.

Bid to prevent bloodshed after Soviet withdrawal

India offers Afghan peace force

NEW DELHI, Feb. 28. (UPI): India is proposing stationing troops in Afghanistan as a peace-keeping force following a possible May withdrawal of Soviet troops from the South Asian nation, but will need the endorsement of Washington and Moscow, the Sunday Observer reported today.

The newspaper said the troop deployment plan may have been the reason for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's surprise invitation to Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq to visit New Delhi for talks about an Afghan peace settlement.

Zia yesterday turned down Rajiv's offer, and New Delhi said it would dispatch Foreign Secretary K P S Meo to Islamabad this Tuesday for discussions with the Pakistani leader and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

The newspaper quoted foreign ministry officials as saying they were evaluating aspects of stationing Indian troops in Afghanistan to prevent bloodshed

between Muslim rebels and the Moscow-backed government in an envisaged power vacuum that would follow a Soviet pullout.

The officials said New Delhi's forces would be stationed west of the Afghan-Pakistan border for a limited period "as a neutral referee," different from the Indian forces pitted in Sri Lanka against Tamil rebels to enforce a peace plan signed last July.

The officials told the newspaper New Delhi would need Washington and Moscow's endorsement to proceed with the plan, "that would enhance India's image as a honest broker in the region and increase its international prestige."

Response

But the undecided aspect, the newspaper said, was the response of Pakistan.

The Observer reported, one faction in the foreign ministry proposed a joint force also comprising Pakistani troops.

However, a second group argued Islamabad would object to being straddled by Indian

troops on both its borders, but New Delhi should disregard these concerns and station its forces, despite the problems of being supplied by planes crossing Pakistani airspace.

Western diplomats say Moscow, India's largest arms supplier and supporter of numerous foreign policy issues, has been pressuring New Delhi to deploy after it withdraws its estimated 115,000 men.

Talks

Diplomats said that little disagreement is expected on the main outlines of a UN-sponsored plan on Afghanistan when talks resume in Geneva on Wednesday.

But Pakistan is refusing to sign any agreement with the present communist government in Kabul that could be seen as endorsing any Soviet puppet rule in Afghanistan.

Some diplomats and officials are optimistic that a solution can be found, but the signals emerging from the run-up to the talks are mixed.

CIA accused of plotting in Panama

MADRID, Feb. 28. (Agencies): Panama's military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega was quoted today as saying the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was plotting to destabilise his country to pave the way for installing a puppet regime.

Noriega made the accusation in an interview with the Madrid weekly El Independiente, given before Panama's President Eric Arturo Delvalle tried to remove Noriega from power on Thursday.

Delvalle was himself ousted by the Army-dominated National Assembly on Friday.

"They (the CIA) themselves have published what they call 'the Panama menu'. They want

first to destabilise us with an economic convulsion, to strangle Panama economically. This will end in social despair and then they will seek a confrontation between armed forces," Noriega told El Independiente.

"They are preparing to return in a big invasion, in order to organise a so-called democratic government, faithful to their interests," he said.

Ruled out

The United States has ruled out using force in Panama but says it is seeking to apply political, economic and diplomatic leverage to remove Noriega.

The military leader said he had

fallen out of favour with the United States because he refused to allow Panama to be used as a base for invading Nicaragua.

Delvalle, meanwhile escaped a virtual house arrest and went underground to avoid deportation, officials and relatives said yesterday.

Raul Diaz, Delvalle's brother-in-law, said the President was "safe in a place somewhere in Panama" but declined to disclose the exact location.

To Washington, a White House official, citing Delvalle's "movements today are all on his own initiative," said US Ambassador Arthur Davis "is in touch with him."

War of the cities

(Continued from Page 1)

The Iraqi communiqué said today's decision to attack Iranian cities followed 24 hours of intensive Iranian shelling of Basra and the Iraqi border towns of Qurna, Khanaqin, Badra, Abul-Khasib and Gula Diza.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Tehran today for three days of talks on the Gulf war and economic cooperation. Iran's national news agency Irna reported.

Israelis sink boat off Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 28. (UPI): The Israeli Navy destroyed a commando boat today off the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre, while Israeli-backed forces killed three Muslim fighters.

"An Israeli boat late yesterday exchanged gunfire with a rubber dinghy carrying commandos off the city of Tyre," reported the Muslim Voice of the Resistance Radio station run by the Shiite Amal militia. "The boat was directly hit, set afire and sank."

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli defence forces said an Israeli naval patrol off Lebanon's coast opened fire on a commando boat near Tyre, 46 miles (74 km) south of Beirut, sinking the boat. An Army spokesman said the boat was on its way to attack Israel.

Israeli authorities said there were no Israeli casualties. Shiite Amal militia sources in Tyre said there were five commandos on the dinghy. They said two commandos were shot and drowned while the three others swam safely to shore near the Palestinian refugee camp of Al Rashidiyah outside Tyre.

The Muslim radio station said the boat was apparently heading to Israel under cover of darkness to carry out attacks when the Israeli naval force spotted the boat and intercepted it.

Attack

In a separate clash, troops of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army repulsed an attempt by a group of commandos to sneak into Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone," killing three of the fighters, an SLA military spokesman said.

Three commandos died in the attack at the SLA-controlled village of Beit Yahoun, 5 miles (8 km) north of the Israeli-Lebanese border, the spokesman said.

"Their bodies are still on the battlefield," the spokesman said on the SLA-run Voice of the Hope radio station.

Voice of the Resistance radio station quoted Amal as saying that the militia launched the attack on the SLA.

"One of our units attacked the Beit Yahoun position with rockets and machine guns and triggered fierce fighting," Amal said. "One armoured personnel carrier was destroyed."

Beria begged on his knees for mercy

MOSCOW, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Josef Stalin's feared police chief Lavrenty Beria went on hunger strike before his 1953 trial, then begged on his knees for mercy when he was shot, according to eyewitness accounts published in Moscow at the weekend.

The accounts, which provided dramatic details over before released, of the fall of the man known as the Kremlin monster, revealed that unlike many of Stalin's purge victims he refused to plead guilty.

"He admitted nothing. Then he declared a hunger strike which lasted for 11 days. We had to beg our efforts to make sure the villain survived to face trial," according to the Army general in charge of the guard.

Revealed

The widow of Marshal Pavel Batitsky, revealed to the accounts for the first time to have carried out the death sentence and who later became Soviet air defence chief, recounted: "My husband used to recall how Beria went down on his hands and knees begging to be spared."

The accounts were published in the weekly Nedelya, weekend supplement of the government newspaper Izvestia, against a backdrop of mounting discussion in the Soviet press of the Stalin period and the months after his death in March 1953.

Beria, who became Soviet police chief in 1938 after directing bloody purges in his native Georgia, made a bid for power after Stalin died but was arrested at a Kremlin leadership meeting in July.

The Nedelya accounts, compiled by journalist Nikolai Zhusevich, revealed that his trial alongside that of six close aides, took place from December 18-23, 1953, and that all seven were shot immediately after sentence.

Until now, foreign historians had widely assumed that his execution had taken place soon after he was seized after being called urgently to a Communist Party Presidium (top politburo) meeting by his colleagues.

Persuade

Among other new information offered in the accounts were:

- that Beria had sought to persuade Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin after Stalin died to join with him in ousting the dictator's heir as prime minister, Georgy Malenkov;
- that the Army team that arrested him had to be smuggled into the Kremlin, which was guarded by Beria's MVD troops, inside the official cars of Bulganin and the first deputy Defence Minister Georgy Zhukov;
- that Zhukov, the Soviet Union's top World War Two commander disgraced by Stalin after 1945, personally ministered the arrest operation and was directly involved in its final stage;
- that Beria was held in a specially-guarded room in the Kremlin for several hours after his arrest and was himself smuggled out of the Kremlin to avoid alerting his allies.

Malds protest

HONG KONG, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Filipino women working as maids in Hong Kong sent an open letter to President Corazon Aquino today asking her to scrap a ban on female domestic servants under 35 taking jobs overseas.

Heart operation

ANKARA, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Doctors at Ankara's Ibn Sina Hospital have successfully performed Turkey's first artificial heart transplant operation, a member of the team said.

SHAM-E-GHAZAL

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KUWAIT

Cabinet reviews latest political developments

THE Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday reviewed international and regional political developments focussing on contacts aimed at halting Israeli violent repression against Palestinians in the occupied territories, the government spokesman said.

Efforts to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end were also reviewed by the cabinet session which was presided over by HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, according to the spokesman, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.

The ministers were briefed on the content of a message HH the Amir received last week from King Hassan of Morocco dealing with Arab and Islamic issues and relations between Kuwait and Morocco.

HH the Crown Prince outlined the outcome of his recent talks in Kuwait with Bahrain's Crown Prince and General Commander of the Bahraini Armed Forces Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa who attended Kuwait's celebrations of the 27th National Day.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed reported to the meeting on his talks here last week with then visiting Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali with whom Sheikh Sabah discussed Arab and regional issues and cooperation between the two countries.

Parliamentarians

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi briefed the cabinet on a recent visit here by an European Parliamentary delegation who had met the Amir and discussed with him a number of issues including Euro-Gulf Cooperation.

Rashed said he outlined to the cabinet the outcome of his meeting with the European delegation in which talks centred on the Gulf war and the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The European parliamentarians have also conferred with Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa on cooperation between the EEC and the Gulf Cooperation Council and the situation on

the international oil market.

The Council of Ministers then listened to a report by Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi on last week's conference of experts in Saudi Arabia on education and health development of Arab children in which the minister represented Kuwait.

Approved

The Council of Ministers also reviewed the results of talks the Crown Prince held with officials during recent tours of several parts of Kuwait.

The council examined ways to resolve problems obstructing development of public services.

The cabinet approved that Kuwait take part in financing long-term trade between members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference by pumping five million dollars into a programme for the purpose.

It also decided to contribute to an international fund affiliated to the Unesco for cultural development.

The ministers also discussed several local matters and adopted a number of pertinent resolutions.



● The Assistant Undersecretary for military projects at the Defence Ministry, Sheikh Sabah Al Nasser, paid an inspection visit last week to the military projects at the Uraifan Camp, the 15th Brigade and the naval base. He held several meetings with officials at these sites. Picture shows Sheikh Sabah Al Nasser (third, right) at one of the projects.

1,800,000 civil ID cards issued

FAISAL Al Shaiji, the Director General of the Public Authority for Civil Information, said the authority had issued about 1,800,000 cards by the end of 1987. He added that this number was equal to the population of the country and that the authority was now involved in renewing cards and changing data on cards already issued, as well as adding newborns.

Alleviated

Al Shaiji said the authority had issued an average of 8,000 cards a day during the summer months last year and that thousands of people received their cards late because of Ramadan and the summer holidays which resulted in crowding at the offices at the end of the summer.

He said that the use of the postal services had alleviated some of the crowding at the main

offices and about 1,500 applications for card renewals were received through the postal service.

The authority has also doubled the number of counters at the Ministries Complex, he said, and has an information centre where inquiries can be made by telephone on numbers 2669333, 2636322, 2636311 or 2636312.

The authority is preparing to construct a new building at its branch in the Farwaniya area which is expected to be completed in eight to nine months. The building will have 80 counters to ensure that all those who come to complete their registration can be handled quickly. Al Shaiji added that registration procedures have been changed which should reduce the time from 15 minutes to seven or nine for completion of registration.

Sheikh Saad for London

HIS Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday flew to London on a private visit during which he will take routine physical check-ups.

Kuwaiti envoy presents credentials

TURKISH President Kenan Evren received yesterday accreditation papers of the new Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdul Wahab Al Rifai.

The presentation of the papers was conducted in an official ceremony described by the ambassador shortly afterwards as "cordial and distinguished."

Civil Service law amendments to be implemented

AMENDMENTS on the Civil Service law will be implemented soon mainly affecting the length of service of top officials, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed has disclosed.

He added, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday that studies are still underway for fixing a four-year period for occupant of a leading post subject for renewal.

Al Rashed, who is chairman of the Civil Service Commission, noted that a number of committees and team works will soon start implementing a nine-stage

plan for administrative reforms in all government institutions. He noted that a permanent committee is assigned with comparing government to private companies' salaries in a bid to elevate wages of qualified cadres in the government to match those in the private sector.

The employees bureau is currently cooperating with the university to set up a number of training programmes to absorb the growing numbers of arts college graduates and qualify them for certain government posts, Al Rashed underlined.

He pointed out, meanwhile, that at present a restructuring of the national council for culture, arts and letters is being studied. Al Rashed, who is also chairman of the council, however affirmed that it will continue its role in organising various exhibitions and encouraging Kuwaiti authors.

Asked on future of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Al Rashed, who is KISR's board of trustees chairman, said that it has a great role in meeting the country's food, industrial and economic needs.

Refai to visit Britain

AMMAN, Feb 28, (Kuna): Jordanian Premier Zaid Al Refai will pay a brief visit to Britain tomorrow, well informed sources said today.

The sources told Kuna that Al Refai will join Jordanian monarch King Hussein currently on a private visit to Britain.

King Hussein is scheduled to discuss with Britain's Premier Margaret Thatcher the Middle East crisis and Britain's role towards convening the international Mideast peace conference.

Medicine output increases

KUWAIT'S pharmaceutical industry is responsible for the production of capsules, tablets, medical creams and ointments and other types of medications.

According to a Kuwaiti daily, local pharmaceutical production has increased over the past few years and is making steady progress in meeting the local needs for medicines and other forms of pharmaceuticals.

The first pharmaceutical factory in Kuwait was established by the Health Ministry in 1966 on a 300 square metre site. This factory has expanded to 2000 square metres and production had

increased from half a million units to over 60 million in 1986.

The pharmaceutical industry has been challenged by the government's demands to meet the national requirements for medications and pharmaceutical drugs and to cut down on the huge amount spent on imported medicines.

Statistics have shown that locally-produced medicines meet international standards, matching the quality of imported medicines. It also appears that the public is more confident of the quality of locally produced medicines.

Drug addiction in Kuwait not widespread: Al Naquib

DR Nael Al Naquib, Kuwait's Public Health Undersecretary, said the Drug Addiction Centre would involve specialists from other ministries and would work toward social rather than medical treatment. He said that while addiction is not widespread at present in Kuwait, it is anticipated as a problem that will have to be faced in the future.

Commenting on the spread of AIDS, Al Naquib said there is a worldwide lack of information about the disease which results in the inability to fight it adequately. He added that a medical or legal means of fighting AIDS has simply not been

found and that Kuwait is unsure of what to do about controlling carriers of the disease. He added that Kuwait was trying to find a solution to move about freely.

Dr Al Naquib said that the appointment of Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak as Health Minister would not change any aspect of the ministry. He added that whatever changes made would be in an effort to continue the development and improvement of the health services. He added that the ministry is especially concerned about training administrative personnel and that some departments would be reorganised.

Students show lack of motivation

DR Jassim Karam, the secretary of the Teachers' Society of Kuwait University, said a large number of students at the university displayed a lack of motivation, were often absent from class and performed below standard academically.

He strongly supported taking strict action against students who did not maintain a high academic performance, saying the university charters provide for such action.

Dr Karam added that the society would follow-up the request for an increase in salaries and allowances given to teachers at the university's language centre with the university administration and Civil Service Council. He said they would also study the problem of low salaries for assistant teachers at the university and examine the promotion system for teachers.

Municipality to decide on site for Jahra market

SALEH Al Khalaf, the Director of the Vegetables, Meat and Fish Market Project to be built in the Jahra area, said that Kuwait's Municipal Affairs Committee would determine the site of the project at its next meeting. He added that the market, which will cover a 32,000 square metre area, will be supervised by the General Warehouse Company and will serve about 336,000 consumers.

In addition to the market area, the project will include administrative offices for the Municipality, Customs, the Ministry of Commerce and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources.

Al Khalaf said that the project is expected to be built near the commercial and administrative centre of Jahra, adding that Jileeb Al Shiyoukh, Fahaheel and Failaka are planning similar projects.

Electrical appliances repairmen exploiting people

ELECTRICAL appliances maintenance and repair shops are now prospering better than at any time in the past because more people prefer to repair and maintain their electrical appliances instead of buying new ones, a local newspaper said yesterday.

It said this was a result of the economic crisis that affected income and reduced the demand for new appliances.

Owners of electrical appliances shops said prices were higher than before, especially for Japanese goods. They said that freight, customs and rent had risen and were reflected in the price.

A number of residents told the newspaper that repairing appliances was costly. It was difficult for them to know the cost and shop owners therefore tended to exploit them. Most repairmen preferred higher profits to pleasing customers he said.

Check

One resident, Amin Ayed, said it was easy for repair shops to exploit customers, but there was a minority of honest men in the market.

He said most residents preferred to send their old

appliances for repair than to buy new ones.

He called on officials for a stricter check on repair shops. Another resident, Abdul Rahim Mustafa, said most repairmen were inexperienced and tried to make profits by cheating customers.

He pointed out that a man with a low income could not afford to buy a new appliance so he sent his old one for repairs, only to find that it would have been better to have bought a new one.

An electronics technician, Martin Jokir, said most electrical appliances were damaged because their owners treated them roughly and the delicate electrical parts were affected.

Faults

He said that new models did not get damaged often, so some shops exploited customers by making them pay more for small faults.

He said that appliances sometimes had major faults that required more than three hours to repair in which case a charge for labour was added to that of the parts.

He advised customers to follow the instructions given in

operation manuals.

Another repairman, Mohamed Hassan, said that it cost less to repair an appliance than to buy a new one. He said some customers preferred to buy a new appliance if the repair costs were comparatively high. He said it was not worth repairing a cheap appliance at a high cost.

He said the highest price he charged customers was KD 50, and he considered this normal.

The owner of an electrical appliances showroom, Abdul Raoud Rashid, said that Japanese appliances lasted longer and were better than Korean ones. It was also easier to find spare parts and to repair Japanese appliances.

The price of Japanese appliances was high because of the rise in the exchange rate of the yen.

Internal Front safeguards security: Sheikh Ali

AHMADI Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem has asserted that "coherence of our internal front is the fence that protects Kuwait and safeguards its security."

In an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday, Sheikh Ali said, "let them launch a missile here and blast a bomb there... our determination will not be shaken," in a clear reference to rocket attacks and bomb explosions against Kuwait in the past years.

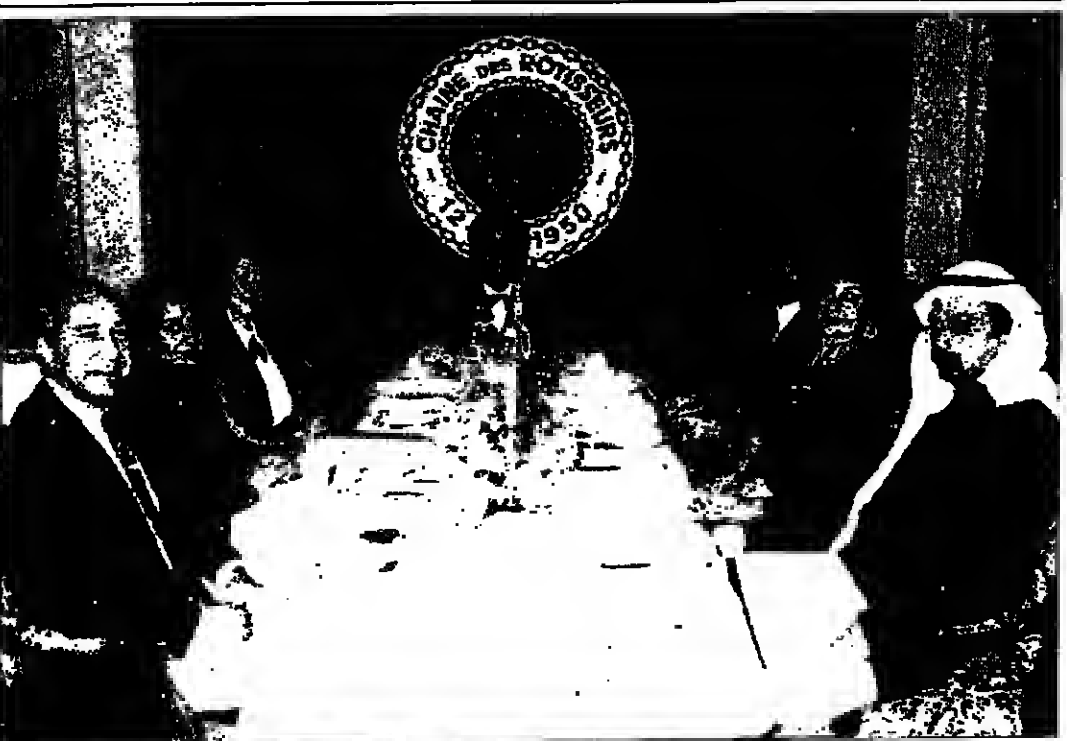
On crime rate in Kuwait, he said if crime rates in other countries are compared with crime in Kuwait, existence of crime in the latter will be negligible, emphasising that apparatus of combating crime in Kuwait are contin-

uously advancing.

Concerning protection of oil installations in the country, the governor affirmed that coordination, in this regard, is standing between concerned quarters, emphasising that necessary measures have been taken to foil any sabotage acts.

Prodding youth to extend more effort towards serving Kuwait, he said Kuwaiti ladies can be recruited to work in certain jobs related to the field of security.

On problems of juveniles and teenagers, Sheikh Ali said more coordination and cooperation between parents and education authorities is required to find solutions to this problem.



● Members and guests of the Kuwait Chapter of the Chaine des Rotisseurs had a gala dinner at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant on Feb 20. The guest of honour was the Charge d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy, Franco Besomi. Picture shows (from left, clockwise): executive assistant manager of the Sheraton Hotel, G Rahwani, Mrs Al Mannaei, Mrs Rahwani, Mohamed Najia, Franco Besomi, Mrs Najia, and Faisal Al Mannaei.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The Amir also received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

Cable of condolences

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the death of presidential assistant and former prime minister Mamdouh Salem.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

New reconciliation game

KUWAIT'S newspaper Al Rai Al Aom yesterday, while wondering whether Iran and Iraq are launching a new round of war of cities affirmed that there is an attempt to expand the explosion in the fighting to the Gulf area again.

The daily in a front page editorial said that there are indications that on understanding has taken place between the United States, Israel, the Soviet Union and Iran, to exchange positions and roles in the new reconciliation game between Washington and Moscow.

Al Rai Al Aom noted that since the beginning of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, the United States has been looking for a "way out" for Israel from its scandalous behaviour in facing the stone throwers.

"The recent visit by US Secretary of State George Schultz to Moscow touched on the 'way out' of a time when the Soviet Union and US are trying to give the impression that they are serious to find solutions for the regional issues including the Gulf war and the Palestinian cause," the paper went on.

However, the daily asserted that the initiatives which the superpowers are launching to treat the problems of the region are not clear, and based on certain self-serving policies, positions and regulations.

"Therefore those initiatives and ideas are unqualified to solve any dispute. Yet, those conflicts and problems are being complicated further."

The paper noted, that even though the two superpowers agreed on passing a resolution on halting arms flow to Iran the war will not end, and the flow of the arms will not stop as well.



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US, Iraqi officials hold talks to avoid accidental missile attacks

ON board the USS Coronado in the Arabian Gulf, (UPI) Iraqi authorities in Baghdad this week told a high ranking American military delegation that "they did not realise the gravity of what was going on" when Iraqi pilots fired two missiles within eight miles of two American warships on Feb 7 and Feb 12.

Marine Gen George B Crist, Commander in Chief of the United States Central Command which directs American naval operations including coooy escorts for reflagged tankers, yesterday did not say that the US had received either "guarantees" against another USS Stark incident, or "apologies." But he said the Baghdad mission, consisting of officers of the joint chiefs of staff and free of his own command, and the Iraqis "have sorted out some problems that were not working right."

Necessary

These involved "deconfliction procedures" with the Badger, "a big aircraft that carries missiles." "It was necessary that we talked ... to be sure that both sides understood how that aircraft is to be employed," Crist said.

His remarks were in answer to wide ranging questions from a press pool, held aboard this flag-ship after a tradition-rich naval ceremony at which Rear Admiral Harold J Bernsen was replaced by Rear Admiral Anth-

ony "Tony" Less, as commander of Crist's Middle East force.

At the press conference, Crist made it clear he did not agree with a report from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that there is a "realistic possibility" that Iraq is losing the war with Iran.

However, he added: "I do not necessarily think Iraq is the winner." He had been asked how a possible Iraqi defeat might impact Central Command's task in the Gulf.

On other key subject, Crist said: "There have been no changes in rules for escorting only US flagged ships, even though several American owned ships this week

turned to the British flag for protection, and heavy pressure is mounting in from US owners of foreign flag vessels. Only military chartered vessels and one US-owned, non-Kuwaiti ship, the SS Texaco Californian, have ventured here and received naval protection, Crist said.

— There has been no protocol to increase US-Soviet naval cooperation in the Gulf, despite a recent joint mine searching operation.

Asked how American citizen seamen on US-flagged tankers could be "security" problem, as Defence Department spokesmen have said, Crist said he could see no problem with Americans on the ships.

CNN pulls out from Gulf media war

DUBAI, Feb 28, (Reuters): The first of America's four television networks covering the Gulf tanker war for the past seven months pulled out of the costly Dubai-based media operation today.

Ben McNitt of Cable News Network (CNN) told Reuters the group's Atlanta headquarters had decided to end its round-the-clock watch on the Gulf as the operation was no longer cost-effective in news value.

American and British television companies followed Western navies into the Gulf last July to provide often dramatic coverage of Iran and Iraq's escalating tanker war spawned by their seven-year-old ground conflict.

In what one reporter dubbed a "war within a war" the rival net-

works spent up to 50,000 dollars a day, at the height of world interest last summer, operating from helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft and privately-hired ships to dog the wakes of US-escorted convoys, Western minesweepers and the Iranian Navy.

Media helicopters have been fired on by the Iranian Navy, rescued crews from hijacking tankers and landed on a supertanker to warn the captain of mines ahead. A media-hired ship was rammed in a confrontation with a US frigate.

But as the convoys settled into uneventful routine and Iran and Iraq's tit-for-tat war on Gulf ships eased this year, the out-works have been cutting back sharply on costs.

The helicopters have been flying less — about one sortie every other day this month compared with up to ten daily last summer — and companies have cut back to bare minimums the number of staff operating from Dubai's luxury hotels.

America's "Big Three" television rivals, ABC, NBC and CBS, closely guard details of their plans and operations but are remaining in Dubai, convinced that the Gulf war is far from over.

"There are still a lot of warships out there and a lot of firepower. One accident or a new move by Iran or Iraq can still put this war back on American TV screens, so none of the Big Three wants to be the first to go," one TV executive said.

Kuwaitis urged to work as imams

ABDUL Rahman Al Fares, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs, said that qualified Kuwaiti youths are invited to work as volunteer imams at mosques. He added that these volunteers would need to have an understanding of the Islamic culture and background and be able to pass the examination required by the Ministry which tests their knowledge of Islam and the Arabic language.

Al Fares denied that the ministry placed obstacles in the way of Kuwaitis being appointed as imams, adding that imams address the various problems of Muslims around the world in their Friday sermons.

He added that the ministry sent 151 teachers of Islam as missionaries to 39 countries and sends Muslim scholars to some of the Gulf states during Ramadan to lecture about Islam. He said the ministry would receive 30 new mosques this year.

National Day reception

RIYADH, Feb 28, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Riyadh Abdul Rahman Al Bakr, held a reception party here last night on the occasion of the National Day of his country.

The party was attended by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz, other ministers, members of Arab and Islamic diplomatic corps as well as several distinguished personalities.

10 traffic accidents

A BOY died after being knocked down by a speeding car in Sulayhiya area yesterday.

There were 10 traffic accidents in Kuwait. Five took place in Ahmadi, three in Jahra and two in Hawalli.



● A representative from the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's Office, Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al Sabah, attended the distribution of assistance provided by the Kuwait government to Lebanon in the form of truck-loads of food, books and school necessities. Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria, Ahmed Al Jassem, and a number of Lebanese officials were present. Top picture shows officials, and the bottom picture shows some of the goods.



Prince Nayef warns Iranians against haj demos

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister warned in an interview published here today of the possible need for harsh measures should Iranian pilgrims again try to disrupt the Hajj in Makkah this summer.

Last summer, Iranian radicals orchestrated political demonstrations in the holy city, touching off as many as several hundred deaths.

For the last several years Iranians have made up the largest foreign contingent of pilgrims. Saudi authorities estimate about 150,000 Iranians come annually to Makkah.

Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz, speaking to the New York Times in his office in Riyadh, said that the kingdom valued its role as protector of the holy places of Islam.

And reaffirmed the right of all Muslims, "regardless of nationality and even regardless of their political views," to perform their religious duty in Makkah.

But at the same time, the senior Saudi official stressed, "we welcome (the Iranians) as Muslims, but they will not be allowed to demonstrate."

The visit will be the first by an Arab leader to Egypt after eleven Arab countries restored diplomatic relations with Cairo.

Sheikh Zayed will exchange views and hold consultation with his Egyptian counterpart on the current developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Fakroh returns

MANAMA, Feb 28, (Kuna): Bahraini Education Minister Dr Ali Mohammed Fakroh today returned home following a visit to the United Kingdom in response to an invitation from the British Cultural Council.

The Bahraini Minister said that his visit aimed to familiarise himself with education operations and school systems in the UK.

Traffic accidents claim more lives than cancer

IN spite of campaigns aimed at traffic safety, traffic accidents claim more lives in Kuwait than cancer and heart disease. Many accidents leave victims permanently handicapped or disabled.

Mustaf Buftaio, a specialist at the Ministry of Health's Prostheses Centre said that most of their cases resulted from traffic accidents.

According to recent statistics issued by the Interior Ministry the number of traffic accidents in Kuwait have increased by 70 per cent in the last ten years.

The Prostheses Centre was established in 1965 with five specialists. Buftaio said that the centre's role at that time was just to take measurements for patients and the actual manufacturing of the prosthesis was done in Cairo or London.

The centre, located in

Safat Square opens today

THE Safat Square project will be officially inaugurated today within Kuwait's celebrations of its 27th independence anniversary, a Kuwaiti official said.

Deputy director of the construction department at the Kuwait Municipality Walid Al Awadi told Kuna in an interview that since the Safat Square is one of the valuable historic landmarks of the country the Kuwait Municipality decided to re-occupy the area.

He added that accepting draft designs to beautify the square started in 1982 after announcing a competition for local and international consultative companies.

Work on the project started in March 1984. Al Awadi elaborated, noting that the project was completed a year ago.

He pointed out however, that the only unfinished part was the monument in the middle of the square, due to the differences in opinion over its final shape. But the issue was settled on a ship's sail surrounded with a replica of Kuwait's old wall, he elaborated.

The official said that the size of the square is 12,000 square metres and the cost of the project reached around 4,200,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

Sheikh Issa receives Admiral Pearson

MANAMA, Feb 28, (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa today received General Commander of the US naval forces in the Middle East, Admiral Pearson in a ceremony marking the end of his mission in the region.

The Gulf news agency reported that Sheikh Issa awarded Admiral Pearson Bahrain Medal of the First Order.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff at the Bahrain Defence Force Maj Gen Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa and the US Ambassador to Bahrain.



Photographers in a helicopter chartered by the American CNN television network and international news agencies swing into action in the Gulf to cover the tanker war. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Visitors to Kuwait are charged 20 per cent of the cost price, he said, adding that it takes between two and three weeks to manufacture a prosthesis.

Buftaio said that the centre had manufactured about 783 compensatory prosthesis in 1987 for paralysis cases and 111 prosthesis for upper and lower limbs.

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Leap year night at the Sheraton

The Management of the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel extends an invitation to all those born on February 29th for dinner at Al Hambra Restaurant on the roof. All birthday guests will be requested to present proof of their birthdate at the entrance to Al Hambra to avail of this special celebration. Surprises await the lucky ones!

MONTH'S MIND In Loving Memory Of

Victor Basil Fernandes
(Expired 31-1-1988)

"We shall meet on that beautiful shore"

There will be a Requiem Mass for the soul of VICTOR, on Tuesday 1.3.1988, at 7.00 pm, at the Holy Family Cathedral. Offered by his sorrowful wife and children. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Shahenshah: a damp squib

By Fathima Ahmed

IN an episode of a teleserial called *Manorajan*, a spoof on filmmaking in Bombay, two producers call a meeting of the producers guild to settle a dispute about the similarities in the story they are filming. While discussing the story, the producers — all 20 — discover similarities not only in the disputed theme but also in the films that they are producing. The producers are up in arms. Then, magically the guild chairman walks in and declares: "Don't worry. The people out there (pointing significantly at the camera and towards us) are gullible idiots. They won't see the similarities. They'll judge a film on the basis of who's acting in it," for example, an Amitabh Bachchan starrer will still draw crowds.

Put Amitabh Bachchan — the actor — in the most banal situation and he comes out tops, even as the puffing and panting Shahenshah. That, perhaps, is the secret of Amitabh's success. Despite his political fiasco, the actor resolutely bounced back as Shahenshah, a role that is a cross between Superman and Robin Hood. The legend of the superstar has survived.

Will the movie? Shahenshah is a stale joke told once to often, and repeatedly by Tinnu Anand. After the publicity blitz — and anti-Shahenshah slogans — one expected more originality from director Anand, who in a recent interview with a film magazine vaguely admitted that the movie was inspired by Meel John Doe.

He did not mention that Shahenshah is a pot pourri of four successful films — *Kalia*, *Sholay*, *Deewar* and *Andha Kanoon*. To be fair to Tinnu Anand, or whoever wrote the story (it has been credited to Jaya Bachchan), only the best parts have been lifted from those films and neatly packaged in the guise of Shahenshah.

Who is Shahenshah? "I am Shahenshah," he hisses, followed by a long, meaningful sigh. It seems the messiah of the

poor is perpetually out of breath. Not surprisingly. Stronger than the Superman (though he does not confess to having super-natural powers) he annihilates dozens of foul-looking (perhaps, foul-smelling too) — Shahenshah wears a disgusted scowl) men with one powerful blow. The villains, we are told, become milkmen after Shahenshah visits them. He appears by night and disappears in the daylight hours.

His job during the day is a different story. Vijay is a slimy police officer who accepts "sweets" (bribes) for the family from offenders and turns a blind eye as they mess around in the neighbourhood.

One gambler walks in and says: "I believe in sharing, in return I want you to ignore my business."

With betel leaf juice dripping down his chin, Vijay replies: "I have shut my eyes and ears. I don't see anything. I don't hear anything."

Vijay's character — timid, shy and guileless — is based on Kalia's, before his transformation to godfather. Vijay, by day runs from thugs, by night the Shahenshah is on the prowl to blow up a storm.

The most bizarre climate sequence is the court scene in the film. In *Andha Kanoon*, Amitabh enters the court room and murders the man for whose death he had been jailed. In *Shahenshah*, Vijay's killer looks make no amends for the disastrous, dramatic and bizarre entry of Julie (Aruna Irani), the key witness in the case against AJ (Amrish Puri), who is the mastermind behind the charade. Shahenshah's method of meting out justice is as extreme as Vijay's bravery in safeguarding Julie.

If the film has been drawing crowds in India, it could be because of the need for a Superman-like character — to clean up the mess — nepotism, corruption, political decay, smuggling and other such vices rampant in society. And, that have been portrayed from the umpteenth time in the film.

Watching Shahenshah, the movie, is like looking for gems and finding dead wood beneath



Amitabh Bachchan

the debris. Watching Amitabh the superstar as Shahenshah is a delightful experience because even as he huffs and puffs he weaves his magic spell. He looks shipshape, in spite of dark circles around his eyes cleverly hidden by make-up, and in form, prowling or fooling around with delectable Meenakshi Seshadri, who plays Sbalu, a petty thief. In an Amitabh Bachchan film, everyone else seems insignificant. Not, though, Meenakshi. As Sbalu, she exudes comph and charm as she tips off the rich in a series of comic capers, matching Amitabh's talent with her own uninhibited style.

Nari Hira's Naqli Chehra is merciless, yet stylish, in its attempt to peel the hypocritical masks to show the ugly face of reality.

Superficiality has been exposed through the characters portrayed in the film.

One by one, the masks fall off



Aruna Irani

and the true face of the people emerges. The socialite who feels superior falls with a thud when the tax man puts her husband in jail for hoarding money.

Another myth explodes when a young, lovelorn man finds out he has been taken on a ride by a wealthy girl, who

marries him to avoid shame. The rich and wealthy are certainly a shallow lot in Naqli Chehra.

What shines in Nari Hira's film are the undercurrents that are prevalent around us, the false promises that are made and broken arbitrarily, the untruths that are passed off as realities, and an honest expose of emptiness cleverly hidden by hollow individuals.

The film stars Supriya Pathak, who plays a very convincing egocentric daughter of a wealthy businessman. Supriya is a good actress and breathes fire into the role as she interprets the character of Bubbles Chawla, a girl who gets everything she wants at the expense of destroying everyone around her. Naqli Chehra offers a far better theme than many recent Hindi film releases.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwania. Tel: 4712900.



Tinnu Anand (right) with Amitabh and Meenakshi during the making of Shahenshah.



Meenakshi Seshadri

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrapp Theatre, New English School, featuring two absurdly comic one-act plays. The Bald Sorano by Eugene Ionesco and The America Dream by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204/5620332/5725071.

Kuwait Little Theatre KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

Kuwait Players

"Antidote," a fast moving revue of comedy sketches and songs will be presented by Kuwait Players from May 9. Auditions will be held at Mesilah Beach Hotel on Feb 28 and March 1, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. For any queries contact Paul Tel: 5611546.

SOCIAL

Swedish Ladies

The next coffee afternoon will be held on March 1, Tuesday, from 4 pm at the residence of Mrs Britt-Marie Bonnan.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390/5385297.

General Meeting

ACT will hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday (Feb 29), 7.30 pm, at Mousetrapp Theatre, NES. Sneak preview of current production "An Evening of Absurdity." Newcomers and everybody interested in ACT encouraged to attend AGM. For details phone 5620332/5725071.

Kuwait Welsh Society

Annual St David's Day dinner at Mesilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548/3910875/3912384.

Mina Bazaar

A Mina Bazaar will be held on March 4 at 9 am at the EPI ground, Sulaibikhat, to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh. A cricket match between Bangladesh Reds and Bangladesh Greens will also be held. All are welcome.

Daniella

Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise—3903464.

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Flightriders

If your child is BA flightrider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Photography Contest

Kapilku has extended the deadline for the Photography Contest. All entries must be submitted on or before March 31. Entrants must state the Kapilku ID number on all entries. The entries will be judged on April 7. Winning entries

will be displayed at an exhibition hall (venue will be announced later). For further details contact 4877793.

Ghazal Singers

Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

SPORTS

Ladies Sports Club

Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports Club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

Raft Race

Raft Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available from the Mesilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'Laeb: cartoons serial
- 4.40 News Summary
- 4.20 Ghadab Al Sabra: part 2 of Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Sabar Rami, Talhath Hamdi.
- 5.10 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural Film
- 6.45 News Summary
- 6.50 Weekend repeat
- 7.15 Our children and their future: ep. 3, local programme focusses on the role of children in Arab and Gulf countries. Tonight's guest, Dr Juliana Abu Al Nasr of Beirut University, will discuss literature for Arab children.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Surag Al Sint: daily Arabic serial, featuring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal.
- 10.50 Deraat Al Abdath: "Circle of Events." Tonight's episode



Richard Kiley plays Gardner in the mini-series, A Year in the Life, at 10.30 pm on KTV2.

examines the services provided by Kuwait Television. Guests are Salem Al Fuhad and Majeed Bughadi. Presented by Kamel Sulaiman Abdul Jalil.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Yogis' Treasure Hunt: cartoons

- 6.30 The Animal Express
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
- 7.30 Don't Wait Up: a comedy of manners about a British family who can't seem to get anything right. In tonight's episode, the son tries to take his mother to the airport...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: "The Fallen Arrow." Harry goes against all odds to clear a book of murder.
- 9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary.
- 10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life." The life, love and fortunes of a middle-class American family are revealed in this mini-series, starring Richard Kiley, Eva Marie Saint, Wendy Phillips, Morgan Stevens and David Oliver.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Mimi Jamal and Hamdi Ghaith in tonight's Arabic serial Surag Al Sint at 9.50 pm on KTV1.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- MORNING**
- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Science Journal
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 News
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.15 Writers and Their Works
- 09.30 Radio Magazine Supplement
- 09.45 Daily Programme
- 10.00 Songs and Music
- 10.30 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Close-down
- 12.30 News on the FM Service
- EVENING**
- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 Bits and Bites
- 21.30 News
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.00 Facts about Zionism
- 22.15 Magazine Special
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Peti Mail
- 24.00 Close-down

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 1st The World Dresser; 8th Sri Lanka Phone-In; from 15th Feature Drama
- 45 First Recordings of British Symphonies (ex 22nd and 29th Virtuoso)

- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 People's Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Just A Minute
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newsdesk
- 30 Augustus Corp Esq By Himself (ex 1st and 8th Five William Stories)
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0600 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newsdesk
- 30 Australia 200 years on (ex 15th Chemistry of Sex Appeal; 22nd You're Never Alone; 29th On the Border)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 1st Not in Our Stars; 8th Faustus, Desires and the Devil; 15th The Insurance Game; 22nd Mind and Music; 29th Airports — The Dangerous Side of Flying.
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 August Corp Esq By Himself (ex 1st Five William Stories and 8th Sri Lanka Phone-In)
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 1st)
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 People's Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by Australia 200 Years on (ex 15th Chemistry of Sex Appeal; 22nd You're Never Alone; 29th On the Border)
- 08.30-08.40 Easy Listening
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-11.00 Songs and Music
- 11.00-11.30 Easy Listening
- 11.30-12.40 News
- 12.40-14.00 Easy Listening
- 14.00-16.00 Classical Music
- 16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
- 17.00-18.00 Latin America
- 18.00-19.00 Pops
- 19.00-20.00 Heller Skelter
- 20.00-21.20 Pops
- 21.20-21.40 News
- 21.40-22.00 Pops
- 22.00-23.00 Jazz
- 23.00-24.00 Easy Listening
- 24.00-0200 Instrumental Listening

ALL TIMES GMT

FM Services

- 08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
- 08.30-08.40 News
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-11.00 Songs and Music
- 11.00-11.30 Easy Listening
- 11.30-12.40 News
- 12.40-14.00 Easy Listening
- 14.00-16.00 Classical Music
- 16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
- 17.00-18.00 Latin America
- 18.00-19.00 Pops
- 19.00-20.00 Heller Skelter
- 20.00-21.20 Pops
- 21.20-21.40 News
- 21.40-22.00 Pops
- 22.00-23.00 Jazz
- 23.00-24.00 Easy Listening
- 24.00-0200 Instrumental Listening

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Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah St., F'heel

Farwaniya
Tawwan Pharmacy
Block 3, Jara Commercial Centre, Main St.

Jahra
Al Khatid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.55 am
- Zuhr 12.00
- Asr 3.19 pm
- Maghreb 5.48
- Isha 7.04

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Living Daylights
Starring: Timothy Dalton

Al Salmiya
Legal Eagle
Starring: Robert Redford

Al Hamra
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim

Drive-In
Al Mul'ouh (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan.

Al Firdous
Naya Zamana (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini

Shahenshah (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri

Al Fahad
Idanazhiyil C-1 Kalocha (Malayalam)

Al Jahra
Labyrinth

Granada
Country

Sulaibikhat
Tarzan: New York Adventure

Al Jeeb
Julie (Hindi)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Wanda Nevada

REQUIRED URGENTLY

Well-established catering company is looking for:

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Or COOK with knowledge of Korean cooking. Transferable visa essential. Contact: 3926847 between 8am-1pm, 3929514 4-7pm.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LEAP year is when February has a day that's even rarer than a day in June — Anonymous.

Bush ahead for Super Tuesday

By Michael Posner

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): With key primary elections just 10 days away, Vice-President George Bush appears well ahead in the Republican presidential race while no clear-cut winner has emerged among the Democrats.

Public opinion surveys show Bush leading Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, whose campaign looked troubled after he shook up his staff this week by firing two top advisers.

Although polls put the vice president ahead in the southern states that dominate the March 8 voting, former television evangelist Pat Robertson could upset predictions if he can once again muster his "invisible army" of Christian evangelicals.

Robertson supporters, many of them new to politics, have not shown up in earlier opinion polls. But they turned out in large numbers in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota where Robertson beat Bush for the runner-up spot behind Dole.

March 8, which has become known as "Super Tuesday," is the biggest one-day contest for the four Republicans and six Democrats still fighting for their party nominations.

Delegate

It requires 1,139 delegate votes to win the Republican nomination to run in the Nov 8 election to succeed President Reagan, who is ineligible for a third term.

Republicans will hold their convention in New Orleans on Aug 15-18.

Democrats meet in Atlanta on July 18-21, and it will take 2,082 votes to gain the party nomination.

Republicans in 17 states will elect 403 of the 2,277 national delegates on Super Tuesday and Democrats in 20 states will choose 1,307 of their 4,162 delegates.

A dozen of both parties' contests and most of the delegates are in the south.

A Republican primary in South Carolina on March 5 may provide clues about Bush's strength. If he wins South Carolina, he could gain momentum against Dole and seriously hurt Robertson's chances to do well elsewhere in his native south.

"You give me a win here on March 5 and I guarantee you'll give me a big win on March 8," Bush boasted at a campaign

appearance in South Carolina. The Bush-Robertson battle has grown increasingly heated with the former preacher lashing out at the vice president's staff for "sleazy" campaign tactics.

Bush has taken Robertson to task for controversial remarks including claims that his Christian broadcast network once knew the location of American hostages in Lebanon and that the Soviet Union has placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.

New York congressman Jack Kemp, a fading Republican contender, has accused Robertson of "off the wall" statements.

But Dole has avoided any criticism of Robertson, whom he is counting on to damage Bush in the south.

Preceding South Carolina are relatively minor contests in Maine on Sunday and in Vermont on Tuesday.

Bush is widely expected to win presidential caucuses in Maine, where he owns a summer home, and also capture Vermont.

On the Democratic side, Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis is expected to win both the Maine and Vermont events in his native New England.

Leading

Some polls show Dukakis leading in the south, as well as the nation, since his New Hampshire primary election victory on Feb 16.

But analysts say the margins are too close to declare the urban northerner a clear leader over black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt, and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore — who skipped earlier northern contests to concentrate on a "southern strategy."

Dukakis and Gephardt have split the four Democratic state contests so far this year. Jackson, who has shown increasing ability to win white votes in the early tests, should pick up a big bloc of convention delegates in the south where blacks will account for 20 per cent or more of the Democratic vote.

Illinois Democratic Senator Paul Simon, who has done poorly in northern races, dropped out of Super Tuesday battles this week to concentrate on his own state, and Senator Gary Hart, who never recovered politically from last May's scandal, has sharply curtailed campaigning.

Anglo-Irish relations plunge to lowest point

By Ed Llon

LONDON, (UPI): Relations between Britain and its one-time closest colony Ireland, touchy at the best of times, have plunged to their lowest point in years. The IRA emerges as the main beneficiary.

"The present responses of the British government cannot be regarded as satisfactory," said Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey after meeting with his British counterpart, Margaret Thatcher, and after two inconclusive meetings of Anglo-Irish ministers.

He said the two nations conflict on one matter was a "total impasse" and broadly hinted the Irish police will no longer cooperate as fully as they had with authorities in Northern Ireland.

Ireland already has halted extradition proceedings for IRA suspects wanted in Britain because Britain refused to comply with new Irish requirements to outline the case against them beforehand.

"The behaviour of the British government showed no understanding whatsoever for the sensitivities of Irish people," said moderate Northern Irish Catholic politician Seamus Mallon.

Mallon, who sits in the British parliament, complained there had only been three convictions in the cases of security force killings of 166 civilians with no parliamentary connections in Northern Ireland since 1969.

Struggle

The outlawed Irish Republican Army has been waging a decades-long armed struggle against British rule in mostly Protestant Northern Ireland so it can be united with the Catholic Irish Republic. It wants a "socialist state" set up in its place.

The deterioration in Anglo-Irish relations began with a January decision by the British attorney general not to prosecute any Northern Irish police officers in the 1982 shooting deaths of six unarmed Catholics, five of whom had ties to the IRA.

Attorney-General Sir Patrick Mayhew conceded 11 officers had acted to "pervert the course of justice" by seeking to cover up the shootings. But he said their prosecution would not be in the "public interest" nor good for unspecified "national security" reasons.

The Irish Republic, which has also outlawed the IRA, expressed its immediate "disney and shock" at Mayhew's decision, indicating it was symptomatic of a lack of justice and discrimination against Northern Ireland's 600,000 Roman Catholics, who are outnumbered by 900,000 Protestants.

Irish anger was quickly exacerbated by a British appeals court decision to reject claims by six Catholic Northern Irishmen that they were wrongly convicted for pub bombings in the English city of Birmingham in 1974 which killed 21 people. The Irish government and more than 100 British members of parliament have expressed doubts about their guilt.

In addition, Britain without consulting Ireland moved to permanently enshrine in its law an anti-terrorist measure allowing terror suspects to be held without charge for up to seven days. The law has been in force for years, but until now had to be re-drafted in parliament every five years.

Dublin finds making it permanent objectionable because most of those held under the measure are people living in Britain of Irish descent and wind up never being charged.

Palestinians in Israeli occupied areas are now organised

Uprising turning into war of attrition

By Louis Toscano

NABLUS, (UPI): Southpaws were in great demand on Sheikh Mussallam Street the other day.

An Israeli Army patrol was on the far side of a gate arching over a narrow passageway, and only left-handers in the mob of Palestinian protesters milling in the street could reach the soldiers with a rock.

Jamal, a 24-year-old protest leader, surveyed the young boys standing around him in a cold drizzle and asked for left-handers. Three youths eagerly pushed to the front, raced up the street and began flinging stones and small chunks of concrete at the troops.

The assault collapsed a few minutes later, but Jamal was still ecstatic about the performance.

"Before, right-handers would have thrown rocks and they never would have reached their targets," he said, smiling broadly. "But now it is better. Now we are organised."

The bloody uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that erupted in spontaneous fury three months ago is slowly evolving into a well-orchestrated, tightly

controlled war of attrition against the 20-year Israeli occupation of the territories.

Guided by the four main factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and a group of PLO-Islamic fundamentalists, as many as 3,000 young men and boys are directing the street riots and commercial strikes that are the backbone of the "intifadah", Arabic for uprising.

Confront

"What we confront is a widespread violent uprising led by a nucleus of activists that enjoys the support and cooperation of the masses," acknowledged Maj Gen Ehud Barak, deputy Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defence Forces.

"I can't state for sure that if all the leaders were arrested, no one else would take their place," he said. "It is not going to end tomorrow morning or next week."

Interviews with military officials, Palestinian activists and residents of the West Bank and Gaza showed the leadership, acting together as the "unified national command of the uprising," is coordinating efforts by business and trade organisations, women's groups and even

the local boy scouts in the fight against Israel.

The heart of the uprising, however, remains in the streets, where Palestinian protesters have honed and refined the rag-tag bands that sparked the rioting into something resembling an irregular Army.

For hours every day, and often for days each week, it is the protesters who rule the towns and UN refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The Army cannot be everywhere at the same time," wrote Ze'ev Schiff, military affairs correspondent for the respected Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz. "And the moment that the forces leave, control over the residents reverts back to the other side."

Tactics

Some Israeli soldiers contend the youths they encounter these days have grasped, however unwittingly, basic field tactics such as flanking and ambush, diversion and tactical retreat.

"You people (reporters) portray this as the big, bad Army against a bunch of little boys," complained Capt Yossi — military regulations prohibit the use of his last name. "Well,

maybe at the start. But look now. The kids are learning very quickly."

The shebab, as the young Palestinians are known in Arabic, have perfected the use of slingshots and bolts to hurl marbles and rocks at soldiers and have moved on to potatoes with spikes embedded in them. They have begun stringing wires between buildings and smearing oil on streets to trip up approaching troops.

Barricade

More ominously, even young children are being drilled in the practical aspects of revolt. Occupied Jerusalem police recently caught a 7-year-old boy in the Shuafat refugee camp making a Molotov cocktail, using a widely distributed "how to" poster.

The new organisation and the increasingly sophisticated tactics were clearly evident one recent rainy afternoon in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank.

The day before, soldiers had shot and killed three Palestinians after Muslim prayers at the main mosque in the old city. The shebab were thirsting for a rematch.

Directed by Jamal, who asked that his last name not be used, several dozen youths built a barricade in the middle of Sheikh Mussallam, using debris thrown down from nearby rooftops. Others broke up boulders into hand-sized pieces of rock and stockpiled them in doorways. Lookouts posted on several roofs kept watch for the Army.

"It's true that in the beginning the uprising started in a spontaneous way," Jamal explained, pulling a pack of Palestinian cigarettes from the pocket of his blue denim jacket. "But after a few weeks, the supporters of the PLO started to work."

Demonstrations and clashes with security forces, which have claimed more than 60 Palestinian lives since Dec 9, are organised by core groups of between 20 and 100 youths in most neighbourhoods of Nablus and other towns and refugee camps, he said.

Protest leaders receive instructions from national organisers using word of mouth, leaflets and a clandestine Syrian-based pirate radio station.

"Everyone has a job and everyone does it," Jamal said. "The women form a first-aid

unit in case anything happens to one of our fighters. We have an offence and we have a defence. The offence charges the soldiers and the defence stays back. When the Army charges, the offence retreats, but the defence covers for them. They throw stones as the Army moves forward."

Offence

"The people who play offence are the fastest and the ones who have the most courage," Jamal said. "On the defence, you have to be able to use the slingshot because it has a longer range."

Sounding like a general at a battlefield briefing, Jamal used the previous day's confrontation to show how the tactics worked.

"As the crowd left the mosque, the Army backed away," he explained. "So the shebab advanced on the ground and over rooftops toward the Army, throwing stones at the soldiers."

"The stone-throwing was very accurate," he added proudly. "We had some direct hit."

Several hours earlier, an Army spokesman defended the use of live ammunition, saying soldiers faced "life-threatening" pressure.

Washington hopes to weaken military control of Panamanian government

US not-so-silent partner in move to depose Noriega

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States is the not-so-silent partner in a growing campaign to depose military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega in Panama.

Washington hopes public criticism, a suspension of US aid, federal indictments and now backing for action against Noriega by civilian President Eric Arturo Delvalle will combine to weaken military control of the Panamanian government and establish true democracy.

The latest crisis in Panama — strategically important as the location of the Panama Canal and home base for 10,000 American troops — began on Thursday when Delvalle dismissed Noriega as head of the Panama Defence Forces.

Embargo

Although Delvalle was the constitutionally-elected president, Noriega is the de facto ruler.

Noriega, who has demonstrated repeatedly over the past eight months that he is not about to surrender without a fight, refused to step down and won backing from the country's military and legislature for a move to fire Delvalle.

US officials and lawmakers backed Delvalle and some Senators called for a trade embargo to punish Panama if Noriega clung to power.

A State Department official, while not formally backing an embargo, told Reuters that "No one in this building would testify

against an embargo" if summoned to Capitol Hill.

Panama, already suffering from a halt to US aid, is heavily indebted, dependent on exports and even uses the US dollar as currency — all factors that could make a trade embargo particularly painful.

"We think the step by Delvalle was a necessary step," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"He's got a country and a government with a perfectly horrible reputation. The president has a responsibility to do what he can to maintain the credibility and legitimacy of his government. It took no small amount of courage to do it."

Pressure against Noriega had been building since last June when his former second-in-command broke ranks and accused Noriega of corruption and involvement in political murder.

Political opponents staged massive protests. The United States undertook a sustained campaign of urging Noriega and the military to step back from politics. Aid was suspended.

The pressure was stepped up when Noriega was indicted earlier this month by two Florida juries on charges of drug trafficking and racketeering. Congress heard testimony that he had turned Panama into a drug haven and pocketed millions of dollars.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Reagan was unusually blunt in urging Noriega's ouster. "What we would like to see is a return to democracy and a



PANAMANIAN STRONGMAN MANUEL NORIEGA civilian government in Panama, and not this domination by literally a military dictator," he declared.

Throughout, the United States has tried to walk a tight-

rope that involved supporting Panama, democracy and the political opposition, while trying not to fan Noriega's charges of Yankee intervention in a region which often accuses Washington of domineering behaviour.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams met recently with Delvalle to discuss the situation in Panama.

"His message to Delvalle was obviously that Noriega had to go," one US official told Reuters.

Alerted

The official insisted that while the United States was alerted in advance that Delvalle, who spent several hours at the US consulate in Panama City on Thursday, would act against Noriega, details were not worked out with Washington.

"Delvalle and his people came up with this idea and they informed us of it," he said.

But he hinted that Washington had assured Delvalle he could count on US protection.

Officials say the US strategy is to encourage Panamanians to have the confidence to act on their own.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said when Delvalle's action was made public: "We believe an opportunity now exists for the Panamanians to deal with the political impasse which has gripped the country for the last eight months and to put the democratisation process back on track."

Washington hoped other democracies would rally around

Panamanians opposing Noriega.

Nicaragua's leftist President, Daniel Ortega, quickly pledged support to Noriega — a gesture that appealed to US officials who label Ortega, fighting the US-backed Contra rebels, as an enemy of democracy.

Intervention

Some US lawmakers said American military intervention might be necessary but Delvalle rejected that idea and Reagan also ruled it out.

But one US official said privately it was an option to protect more than 29,000 Americans living in Panama if they were deemed in danger.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said he felt there was no such threat and that US forces had not been put on a high state of alert.

"Look, with what we have at stake in Central America, there is no way short of a disaster that we are going to get in any kind of shooting match with the Panamanians," said one Defence Department official, who asked not to be identified.

For the moment, Washington was waiting and watching the decidedly fluid situation.

Despite the confusion in Panama — and the uncertainty about Delvalle's fate — the United States seemed convinced the president's action would ultimately prove beneficial.

"I don't think it complicates the situation, I think it clarifies it," one State Department official said.

Roh won popular mandate by distancing from Chun

SEOUL, (Reuters): Former General Roh Tae-Woo, South Korea's new president, won a popular mandate by distancing himself from his friend and predecessor, the remote and autocratic Chun Doo Hwan.

In 1979 Roh threw his troops behind the coup bid which propelled his fellow major-general to power. He subsequently served Chun in a series of key positions, becoming identified in the public mind as a man of the same tough mould as the president.

Yet when public anger erupted in June 1987 at Chun's plan to have Roh rubber-stamped as his successor, Roh went on television to announce his personal commitment to democratisation and defused the crisis.

After persuading Chun to allow a free, direct vote for president, Roh threw off his reserved manner and plunged into the campaign. He rebutted opposition charges that he would continue strongman rule by claiming he was, in fact, the candidate best placed to bring the country democracy.

The electorate heard his message. His task eased by a split opposition, Roh won the Dec 16 vote with almost two million more votes than the two main opposition candidates.

But with only 37 per cent of the vote, Roh had to work hard at establishing his legitimacy as president of all South Koreans.

Parties

He proclaimed an end to authoritarianism and the dawn of a "great era of ordinary people."

He insisted that South Koreans should address him as "Mr President" instead of the traditional "excellency". He did away with expensive Western-style cocktail parties in favour of folksy receptions at which he



Roh Tae-Woo

served humble Korean rice cakes and potato liquor.

Roh encouraged his staff to attend meetings in shirt-sleeves, and ordered the presidential Blue House opened to the public. Under Chun, few South Koreans had even glimpsed the heavily-guarded mansion.

Chun's seven-year rule was continually marred by opposition charges that it was a military dictatorship, and Seoul was widely criticised for its human rights record.

Rejected

In his inaugural speech, Roh declared: "The day when freedoms and human rights could be slighted in the name of economic growth and national security has ended... we will have a era of mature democracy when human rights are inviolable and freedom with responsibility prevails."

Opposition leaders say they doubt the sincerity of Roh's new-found democratic principles. They rejected his offer of cabinet posts and snubbed invitations to the inauguration.

Roh was born on Dec 4, 1932,

the son of a poor farmer in Taesong county, near the south-east city of Taegu. He went to school in Taegu before entering the Korean Military Academy in Seoul in 1951.

With Chun, he attended a psychological warfare course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and commanded a much-feared South Korean combat unit during the Vietnam war.

After the 1979 coup and Chun's 1981 election to the presidency by a restricted electoral college vote, Roh retired from the Army to hold a series of influential government posts.

Heserved in turn as minister of state for political, national security and foreign affairs, as sports minister and as interior minister. As interior minister he directed the country's 140,000 police at a time when they were accused of torture and other human rights violations.

In 1983 Chun made Roh Olympic games organising committee, a post he held until 1986 when he stepped down to concentrate on his post as chief of the ruling party.

Aides say he maintains good personal relations with International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Roh is married and has a son and a daughter. He relaxes by playing golf and tennis. He speaks fluent Japanese but little English and is an avid reader, particularly enjoying Hermann Hesse and Japanese military history.

He occasionally composes music and lyrics and is not ashamed to get sentimental in public. Aides said he shed tears when Chun chose him as his successor and wept again when he won the presidency.

Kenyans line up for new style elections

By Philip Williams

NAIROBI, (UPI): Wooded with beer and stacks of cash, Kenya's voters have begun lining up behind their choices in parliamentary elections traditionally marked by kidnappings, intimidation, violence, poll rigging, lots of noise and tireless guile.

Last week's "primary" elections to select candidates left only one person dead. But half a dozen more were hospitalised with serious injuries — and officially, campaigning hasn't started yet.

The election proper comes March 21 after a three-week campaign. The result is a guaranteed victory for the only legal political grouping, the Kenya African National Union of President Daniel Arap Moi.

But that victory might be more hollow than Moi and Kanu officials hoped. Hard statistics are scarce, but turnout in the primaries probably averaged around only 25 per cent of the registered vote.

The election will not directly affect Moi's standing, who will run unopposed in his home constituency — and barring an unlikely sensation — in the presidential election which runs parallel with parliamentary voting.

But if turnout stays low, it will dent Kanu's claim to be the only effective vehicle for the aspirations of 20 million Kenyans since Moi made his country a single-party state in 1982.

The preliminary elections were a Kanu-only event in which Kanu members the government says there are 4.3 million selected candidates who will offer themselves to 5.5 million registered voters on March 21.

The procedure was new. Voters lined up behind pictures

of the candidates at polling stations to be counted physically. It was the first time the lining up system was used since British colonialists employed it for electing local Kenyan chiefs and headmen. The government said it was devised to cut down the number of frivolous candidacies. Highly critical clerics and lawyers said it aimed to tighten Kanu's grip on political life.

From 188 seats, 60 candidates got more than the required 70 per cent of the vote to go through unopposed in the March 21 poll. No less than 29 of them were ministers or assistant ministers.

Kenyan elections are rough

and tumble, and the successful are often the rich. Buying votes with cash is illegal but widely practised, as acknowledged by the authorities who do try to stamp it out.

So widespread is voter bribery that candidates who don't dish out money feel obliged to explain why. Agents for many candidates circulate in bars buying beer and favour as election day approaches.

Violence is frequent. In a single-party system where all policy is set by the president, campaigning gets personal. Last week's balloting was generally orderly but nevertheless marred by several beatings and attacks.

Despite harsh penalties, vote rigging happens. At least six defeated candidates cried "fix" after the primaries. General electoral sloppiness muddies the picture.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1720 — Ulrica, Queen of Sweden, abdicates in favour of husband Frederick I, prince of Hesse-Cassel.
- 1808 — French forces take Barcelona.
- 1832 — New Grenada, in South America, proclaims constitution providing for republic form of government.
- 1872 — Young revolutionary attempts to assassinate Britain's Queen Victoria.
- 1892 — Britain and United States sign treaty on Bering Sea seal fishery.
- 1916 — German order for sinking armed merchantmen at sight goes into effect in World War I.
- 1920 — Czechoslovak constitution is adopted.
- 1928 — US Colonel Harry L. Simpson arrives in Manila to take over as governor-general of Philippines.
- 1932 — Nazi revolt begins in Finland.
- 1944 — US troops invade the Admiralty Islands in Pacific in World War II.
- 1952 — Edgar Faure's ministry falls in France, and Antoine Pinay forms cabinet.
- 1956 — Pakistan becomes an Islamic Republic.
- 1960 — Heavy earthquakes strikes Agadir, Morocco.
- 1964 — It is announced that United States has developed secretly a jet aircraft that can fly 2,000 miles an hour at 70,000 feet.
- 1980 — Protestant gunmen kill Roman Catholic man and wound another in hit-and-run attack in Belfast, Ireland.
- 1984 — In Gulf war, Iran says it shelled Basra and Iraq says it destroyed 50 Iranian boats.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Record prices for contemporary art

India's art bazaar is flourishing

It was the ultimate in art-collectors' ego trip, India's hottest scramble for canvas. Last December, when Christie's auctioneer Tom Craig's silver-handled hammer came down at the ballroom of Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay at the last bid for M.F. Hussain's Mother Teresa—a mindboggling Rs 5 lakhs (approximately \$50,000)—even the most cynical in the country's newly galvanised art bazaar had to admit that new frontiers were being set in the field of modern art.

For 34 works by contemporary painters, many of which were so small that you could pass them off as Christmas cards, Helge Lodia, the charitable organisation on behalf of which the auction was organised, netted nearly Rs 20 lakhs (\$200,000) an average yield of around Rs 60,000 (\$600) per frame. Said Craig: "Even if you don't read rupee for dollar, this is a most impressive auction by any standard."

High-voltage
The 120-minute high-voltage auction, tied heavily with glamour and showbiz, had a surprise every moment. For New York-based painter S.H. Raza's Surya, a non-figurative acrylic on canvas, frenetic bidding went on between the scions of two large industrial groups—Ashok Birla and Harsh Goenka. At the fall of the hammer, the bid had gone up to a dizzy Rs 2 lakhs, nearly four times the price at which a Raza painting of the same size and importance is available with the galleries. Minoo Mody of the Tata group, who bought the Hussain painting on behalf of the Tata Iron and

Christie's of London recently held the first-ever auction of contemporary Indian art in Bombay and with the high prices paid for some paintings, even the most cynical in the country's newly galvanised art bazaar had to admit that new frontiers were being set in the field of modern art.

Steel Company (Tisco), also paid Rs 36,000 (\$3,600) for a Ram Kumar landscape, an amount which exceeds the prevailing price of the Delhi-based abstractionist by at least 50 per cent. An exquisite study in blue of a fisherman by Bhupen Khakkar, the Baroda painter, fetched Rs 1,20,000 (\$12,000)—the highest price at which his paintings have sold to India so far.

Only three months ago, Aruo Sachdev of Bombay's Gallery Seven had sold painter Navjot's work on canvas, Hope II, for a measly Rs 8,000 (\$800). Now the same painting was offered for the Christie's auction and fetched a whopping Rs 85,000 (\$8,500). Said Sachdev: "It added a zero in three months." Nasrco Mohammed's ink-on-paper, barely one foot long, commanded a last bid of Rs 9,500 (\$950) when Craig put his hammer down. Shipping magnate Dilip De, husband of gossip writer Shohha De, bagged an abstract painting by Laxman Shreshtha, a study in contrast between warm red and cold steel blue for a pole-quickening Rs 90,000. (\$9,000). One of the most significant beneficiaries of the price-games was the highly acclaimed but little sold Bengali painter,

Jogen Chowdhury. Till recently, Chowdhury's watercolours and small-sized mixed media works were selling for Rs 4,000 (\$400) to Rs 5,000 (\$500). But the Taj Hotel auction witnessed the price of an ink-and-pastel work by him done on paper measuring just 40 inches in width, skyrocketing to Rs 20,000 (\$2,000). The sale of the painting, captioned Couple II, and adorned with supersensitive hatchings which are more eerie than pleasing, throws light on yet another hidden trend of the art market today's buyers are ready to accept non-decorative art.

Impressive
Equally impressive were the bids for veteran Delhi painter Kristen Khanna's acrylic-on-canvas, St Francis and the wolf, and Calcutta painter Bikash Bhattacharjee's small work in mixed media, Kerfo. Khanna had set a reserve price of Rs 40,000 (\$4,000) for his work. A veteran of many auctions, he had predicted to this correspondent only a week ago: "My reserve is realistic. I know this painting will draw exactly Rs 40,000." Well, he was wide off the mark by exactly 100 per cent, for his price went up to Rs 80,000 (\$8,000). And Bhattacharjee, who normally



Hussain's Mother Teresa: highest price for any contemporary Indian painting.

charges Rs 8,000 for work of a similar size, realised Rs 16,000. (\$1,600) his painting having been bought by K.P.V. Nair, a Calcutta-based businessman.

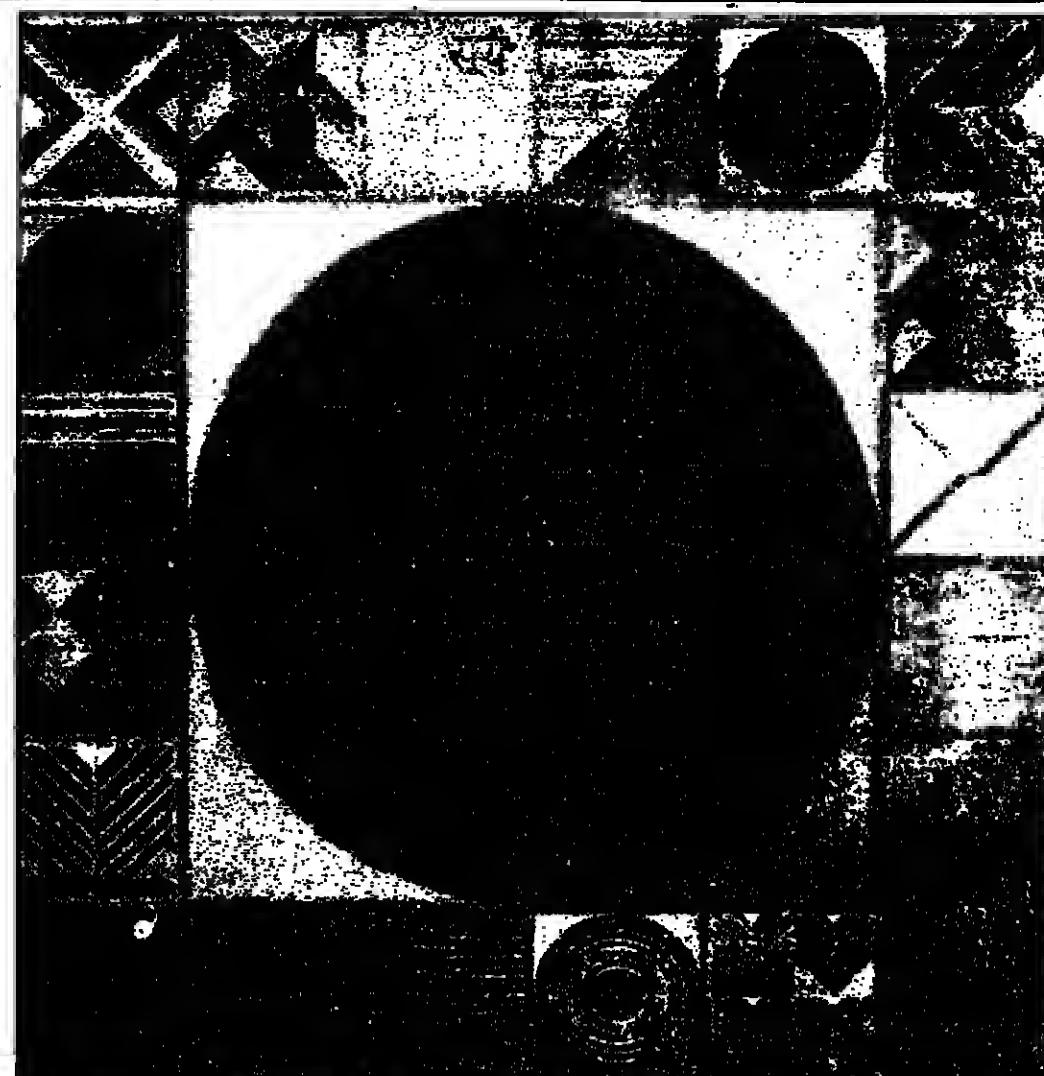
There were a few disappointments too. Jeram Patel's acrylic-on-canvas, Black Form One, went back unsold as the final bid of Rs 10,000 (\$1,000) fell short of his reserve price. And Gieve Patel could not sell his utterly gimmicky Lighted Platform, a nearly seven feet long canvas which merely plays with perspective, because the offer of Rs 18,000 (\$1,800) was much less than the reserve price. Out of 37 works offered, only three went back. Craig later explained that even in the West, the sale to return ratio of contemporary art was hardly ever better than 60:40.

Lines were, therefore, clearly drawn between the serious and the showy, the committed and

the tawdry. But still, the enigma persisted as to why were the assorted mooneybags offering prices that were patently higher than market rates. When asked, Modi shot back: "Why not? Isn't it a good cause?" Significantly, in a similar auction held recently in Delhi's Maurya Sheraton Hotel, bids were appallingly low—so low that a Hussain painting went back unsold following a final offer of only Rs 40,000. (\$4,000). The Maurya auction too was for a "good cause", the Indian Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Art auction, like most auctions, is akin to blood sports in which heart beats rise with the bids and man's possessive instincts get the better of his judgement. Perhaps it was the aura of the Christie's that set the price-hunters tumbling this time around.

Courtesy: Sunday

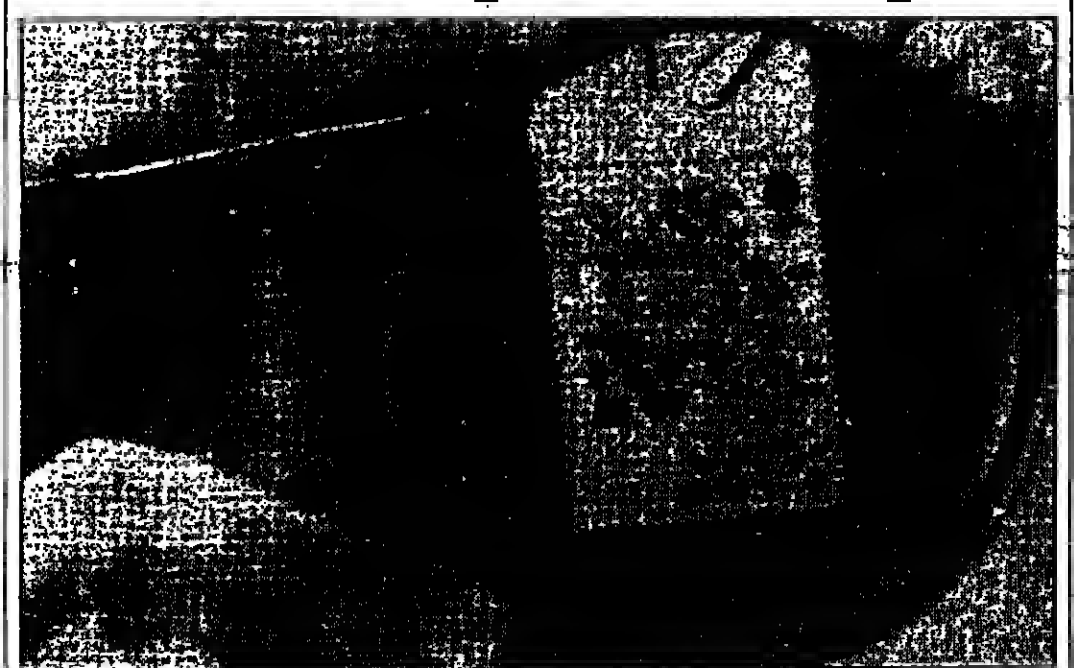


Surya, an acrylic on canvas by artist Raza went for Rs 2 lakhs (\$20,000).



Oil-on-canvas landscape by Ram Kumar.

£30,000 stamp without a price



THIS humble 13p postage stamp (top) is expected to sell for £30,000, because the price was left off when it was printed 12 years ago. It was one of the 'Roses' series and depicts a sweet briar.

The stamp will be sold by tender on March 10 by the London dealer B. Alan Ltd. "I would say it is the rarest stamp of this sort from the current Elizabethan reign, and it is in mint condition", Mr James Skinner of the firm said. He would not disclose the identity of the vendor, but said it was not the person who bought the stamp over a Post Office counter in 1976.

B. Alan is a specialist in misprinted stamps. Past examples include a 3p 1965 Post Office Tower stamp with the tower missing, and a 1969 QE2 stamp with the liner apparently sinking due to the absence of black colouring. The market price of these, however, is a mere £1,000.

The high value of the briar rose stamp is due to the error originating on the printing cylinder, rather than in the inking. When the Post Office discovered the flaws it announced that the stamps and the cylinder had been destroyed. However, Mr Skinner said, in the Dover area a small batch slipped the net.

Social comment on canvas

NEW YORK: An exhibition of paintings by Pakistani artist Zafar Qureshi was held in a Manhattan gallery recently.

The artist, a former journalist and children's cartoonist, made a strong impact on critics with his bold impressionistic style and the political content of his paintings.

Many of Zafar Qureshi's works vent his feeling at the prevailing social and political injustices in his own country which led him to seek a new life in the USA. Indeed at first

glance Qureshi's paintings appear to be merely decorative until they are viewed in the context of their intriguing titles which give them a whole new meaning.

A picture of two village beauties with water pitches on their heads is entitled "Acquiring Awaas". Zafar explains: "We don't have drinking water in our villages and women have to walk miles to get a pitcher of water. Yet we are buying sophisticated weapons and spy planes."

Another painting of a group of women is called "The Forgotten". "This" says the artist "portrays the plight of an important segment in our society. In recent times women have been pushed back and more and more stringent segregation is taking place."

Zafar lamented that while there was tremendous scope for creating an awareness through art there was no market for such art in Pakistan. "Artists have to please the buyers so they create mere decorations" he said.



'The Forgotten' by Pakistani artist Zafar Qureshi.

India's foremost artist talks about his work

'I am a self-taught painter'

while others were logical, even sedate. One day, one of the onlookers shouted: "It's all a gimmick." But nobody joined him. I felt that I had made a point there: that there is no difference between an artist and a bricklayer. Maybe one or two of the canvases were not as good as the others. But what difference does it make?

My favourite image has always been the restless artist, the painter whose fingers wouldn't stop. I have always admired Picasso not just for his unquestionable mastery of theme, form and colours but for the boundless energy that propelled him, inducing him to leave behind at least one lakh paintings till his death at 92 years. Yes, I also want to live long and paint a lot.

It is good that my paintings in general are fetching some mooney these days. The Christie's auction is a good beginning, because the true price of art can be judged in auctions alone. But we as a nation prepared to accept the idea of auctions? I am not very sure. Funny enough, we Indians always associate auctions with somebody going bankrupt. Maybe it will take some time for



M.F. Hussain: 'an artist, not an intellectual.'

the culture of auctions to take root in this country, and the art market to get systematised. As of now, it is a shambles. There are very few professional art dealers, and very few galleries. Except my friend Kali Pundole, all other dealers are not serious about their business and are merely opportunity-hunters. A professional dealer should buy paintings outright, and then put his own price-tag and sell it. He must take risks to make a profit. Isn't that the true meaning of the word profit? But, in our country, art dealers hold on

to paintings without having any stake in the sale; they have neither any investment nor any incentive to sell.

An artist has to sell his work because he has to live. But it is not right to say that the market conditions the work of an artist. In 1932, I sold my first painting—a landscape—for Rs 10. And now, my reserve price for the Christie's auction is Rs 6 lakhs.

But mooney has played no part in the progression of the artist in me. I have painted whatever I have liked; the society has put price-tags on them. In 1957, I offered one of my best works, The Spider and the Lamp, a six feet by four feet oil-on-canvas, to the National Museum of Modern Art for Rs 800. They did not take it then.

But now the National Museum at West Berlin has offered the equivalent of Rs 10 lakhs for the same work, but I am not giving it to anyone. Did I think of price when I painted it? No artist does so.

People have often accused me of having dabbled in politics, of having painted to order. But it's not true at all. Yes, I did paint Indira Gandhi as Durga astride a tiger. That

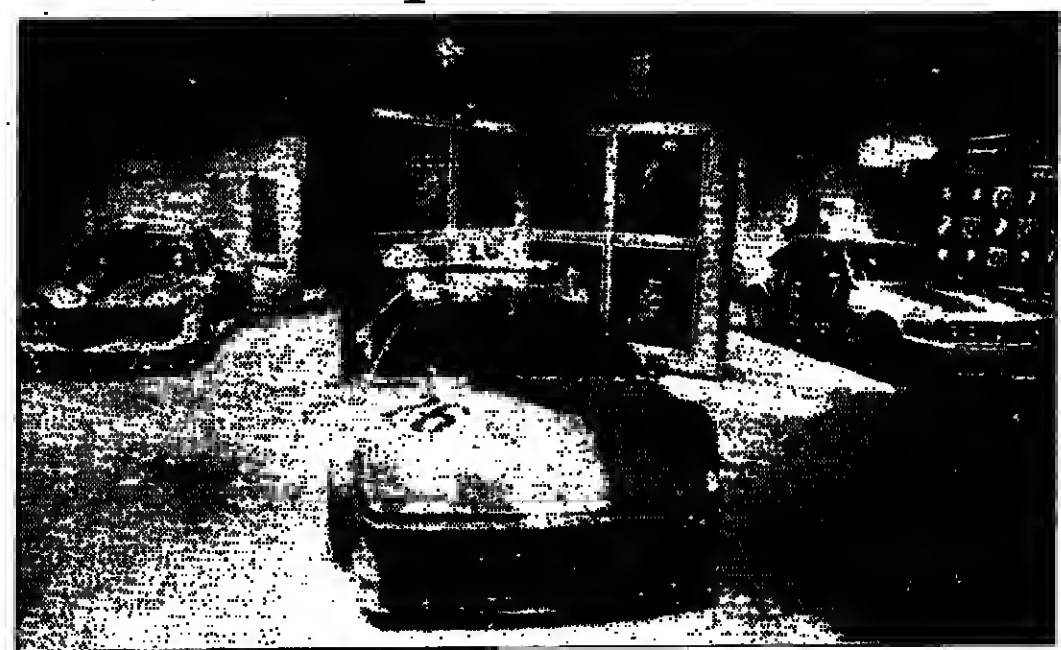
was during the Emergency. But nobody noticed that I was merely playing with forms—the goddess had become merely an extension of the beast. Nobody noticed the irony, but that's exactly what happens when people become too eager to read meaning into art, to analyse, to intellectualise, and finally to put labels.

As an artist, I have always rebelled against labels and stereotypes. My early paintings—the stuff that I used to do in the 50's—was some kind of an exploration of Indian village life. I travelled miles after miles on foot, travelled and painted. Finally, I celebrated that experience with an opera-like work, a large canvas of 15 feet which I called Zameen. You'll see it at the National Museum of Modern Art. I used to live in a small house on Grant Road, then, and nowhere could I have a 15-foot wall. So I folded up the canvas. But it became my ultimate statement on village life. I got Rs 6000 for that, my first big money.

But I can never stick to a long time to one artistic milieu. After Zameen, I visited London, and was taken in by cold, rational themes. Thus began a 'grey' period in my career. Cool, rational forms, no flashy colours. But I got fed up with that too, the phase culminated with my big work, Voices.

As told to Sumit Mitra
Courtesy Sunday Magazine.

Artistic expression on wheels



Exhibition of BMW cars painted by Calder, Stella, Lichtenstein, and Warhol.

to art and displays of the products, technology and heritage of our company, not

retail selling," he adds. Art/Car is the second exhibition at The Gallery since it opened in June.

Each of four artists featured in Art/Car has made major contributions to 20th Century art.

exploring, in depth, the relationship between art and technology as well as the popular imagery of modern life. "Except for these five machines, the automobile, surely one of the dynamic symbols of our age, has rarely been the medium for an artist," states Kramer.

The BMW Gallery exhibit includes the scale models from which the car designs were transferred. The cars created between 1975 and 1979 were raced in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, then retired for exhibit in leading museums throughout Europe and the United States. The Whitney in New York, High Museum in Atlanta, Cheekwood in Nashville, Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, and the Denver Art Museum have exhibited the cars.

The BMW Gallery is an extension of the philosophy of the BMW Museum at the company's world headquarters in Munich. Opened in 1972, in conjunction with the Olympic Games taking place across the street, the Museum has become one of the most popular in Munich.

NEW YORK, N.Y.: Between 1975 and 1979 BMW AG, the Munich-based manufacturer of exclusive automobiles and motorcycles, collaborated with four American artists to provide each with a BMW race car as a medium to express their visions of power and motion.

The cars created by Alexander Calder, Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, and the debut of a newly commissioned BMW 635CSi by Robert Rauschenberg, as well as works in other media by the artists, comprise "Art/Car: BMW and 5 American Artists" at The BMW Gallery, November through February.

The BMW Gallery is a 7,000 square foot exhibition center located at 320 Park Avenue at 51st Street. "The Gallery is designed to present the style of BMW, both as an international business leader and as the manufacturer of exclusive vehicles," explains Gunter Kramer, chairman of BMW of North America, the Montvale, NJ-based importer.

"The Gallery is unique in our industry since this space in the center of New York is devoted

BEHAVIOUR

By Anne Gottlieb

IT was an interview like no other I've ever done. The neat, energetic, silver-haired man looked up from the piece of paper I'd given him, smiled and said, "All right, you can ask questions — now that I know you!"

And Carlos Pedregal did know me, impossible as that seemed. For during the 20 minutes we'd spent together, I had not said a word about myself. Yet he knew all about the child-idealism that had gotten me into trouble as a writer ("maddeningly hopeful," one critic called my last book) and about complexities of my private life not even known to my best friends.

Carlos Pedregal is not a psychic or a mind reader. He is an internationally known graphologist — a handwriting analyst — and he had just studied a sample of my handwriting.

Okay, I was convinced. There's got to be something to handwriting analysis if a stranger can read my romantic his-

the problem: What he'd see in a famous person's handwriting might not be the familiar public image but perhaps a side of that person she or he didn't want us to know.

Graphologists claim that handwriting doesn't lie. If a person pretends to be something she isn't not only will the pretense itself show in her writing, but her real passions and conflicts will hang out like a Frederick's of Hollywood slip under a dress-for-success skirt. With that warning in mind, Pedregal scrutinized my samples. (I did tell him each writer's sex — something that graphologists can't tell from handwriting.)

Sample 1. "A bookworm," Pedregal said without hesitation. "Intellectual, scientific, cultured. Shy and closed in himself but very capable... an important man." He had just analysed the handwriting of Jonas Salk, discoverer of polio vaccine.

Sample 2. This one is a signature, but an illegible one. "Egocentric," he said. "Great imagination... a tendency to lie

Mind your P's and Q's

What you write is what you are

To an expert, your handwriting reveals as much about your personality as the words you write. Just as your fingerprints attest to the individuality of your body, your 'brain-prints' — the curves and angles, dots and slashes you make when you write — express the uniqueness of your personality.

"Today I pay for everybody!" Pedregal was surprised to learn that this was the famous outlaw Jesse James. "There's no aggressiveness in his handwriting!" He concluded that Jesse James must have been a kind of Robin Hood.

Sample 3. Another illegible signature. "Superficial, with an imagination verging on the pathological," Pedregal said. "She alters the world to conform to her desires. Her whole life is just a big show, and everybody in the world is the audience." He was talking about seven-times-married Elizabeth Taylor.

Intrigued by Carlos Pedregal's virtuoso demonstration, I decided to do a little investigating of my own to find out more about graphology itself. How can our sexuality and anger, creativity and brains, timidity and generosity all be visible in our handwriting?

Study

I learned that the study of handwriting as a key to personality has been around for almost as long as writing itself. The first record of it dates from the Roman Empire, over 1,800 years ago, when a historian commented on the handwriting of the emperor and what it revealed about his character.

About 400 years ago, an Italian doctor made the first systematic attempt to link handwriting traits with personality traits (like those open-topped a's and o's that spill out Jesse James's largesse).

More recently Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe and Albert Einstein have been among those fascinated by handwriting as the self-portrait of a soul. Modern graphology is considered a legitimate branch of psychology in Europe and South America. It's taught in major universities and used in

personnel selection by 85 per cent of firms in Holland, West Germany and Switzerland.

In the United States, graphology has been slower to catch on. Over 3,000 companies now use it as an aid to hiring, but many won't admit it publicly. The problem: Graphology was first introduced here in the 1930s as an entertainment, so it got tossed into the grab bag of the popular occult along with astrology and card reading.

Graphologists have always protested that classification — and some psychologists and doctors agree that graphology

has a much stronger claim to validity, for, while there's no proven link between our lives and the cards or stars, the connection between hand and brain is direct and physical.

"Handwriting is brain writing," says Ivy Helstein, M.A., a Long Island, New York, psychotherapist who has used graphology in her practice. "It's the unconscious mind being conveyed down to the fingers."

As proof that writing comes from the brain, Andrea McNichol, European-trained president of Graphology Consultants International in Los

Angeles, says that when wounded Vietnam vets learn to use a pen skillfully with mouth or toes, their writing is much the same as it was before the injury.

Just as your fingerprints attest to the individuality of your body, your "brain-prints" — the curves and angles, dots and slashes you make when you write — express the uniqueness of your personality.

"No two people on earth write the same way," says Andrea McNichol. That's why a trained handwriting analyst can spot a forgery, according to Graphological Services International president Ruth Brayer, M.A., who offers forgery-detection seminars to major New York banks.

The usefulness of graphology for identification purposes is undisputed even in the United States: Graphological testimony is now admissible in court in nine states, and handwriting experts have been called on by attorneys and police detectives all over the country to help validate wills and identify criminals. Andrea McNichol and other graphologists helped unmask notorious Nazi doctor Joseph Mengele, who lived in South America under a false identity but could not disguise his handwriting.

The more fascinating and controversial claim of graphology, of course, is that it not only can tell you apart from everyone else but can also describe how you feel about your mother, whether you're honest, what jobs you'd be good at and whether you're an optimist or a pessimist.

Graphologists study more than 300 different signs in your handwriting — including slant, pressure, spacing, rhythm, margins, how you form and connect (or disconnect) various letters, how your signature compares to your writing in

and each sign must be interpreted in the context of the handwriting as a whole.

So no good graphologist will tell you that you can always identify loyalty, ambition or sensuousness from the dot of an i or the loop of a g. But two broader aspects of handwriting analysis can be grasped by almost anyone: movement and symbolism.

The movement of handwriting is a clue to character much as body language is, says Carlos Pedregal. "Handwriting is like printed gestures. If someone doesn't move at all when he talks — not even his face — his writing is also going to be still and tight or without energy. If someone is like me" — he gesticulates animatedly — "his handwriting will show the same thing!" Fluid, rounded writing indicates an easygoing, flexible nature; sharp, angular writing suggests aggressiveness, criticism, or control. Your script also mimics the movement of your mind: Interrupted writing reveals intuitive leaps, while connected writing shows a logical chain of reasoning.

self-centredness or defensiveness.

Symbolism in handwriting means the way script forms a picture of the writer's inner being. Graphologists divide handwriting into three "zones": the middle zone — the bodies of the small letters — and the upper and lower zones, formed by the extensions of letters like /, k, g, j and the capitals. According to New York graphologist Ruth Brayer and her teacher, Felix Klein, regarded as "the father of American graphology," the three zones correspond to the head, heart and lower body or to the Freudian superego (conscience), ego (self-image and relation to reality) and id (unconscious passions). The relative size and the forms of the three zones tell a graphologist whether the writer is more spiritual, intellectual, emotional, sensual or materialistic and where his inner conflicts lie. Badly formed middle-zone letters can betray a poor self-image, while sharp-pointed loops in the lower zone may indicate sexual tyranny.

*Writing this at
request. Please*

If the last stroke reaches out, so does he—or she

tory in the unusual way I make my small g's!

But how about an equally dramatic demonstration for the readers? I offered to show Pedregal handwriting samples of several famous people (obtained from New York autograph dealers Charles Hamilton and Cambridge Essex Stamp Co.) without telling him who they were. If he described these celebrities accurately just from their handwriting, wouldn't it be intriguing proof that we have our souls in script?

Pedregal said that was just

or to exaggerate. She's created her own world and lives inside it... she's put a distance between herself and society, but she's happy. She enjoys it." That's Shirley MacLaine, whose ventures into the occult realm of reincarnation, UFOs and channeling have made book and TV history.

Sample 3. "Very generous... childish... deeply vulnerable, though he wouldn't give that impression if you met him. His only fault is that his generosity goes too far, like throwing it away. The kind of guy who walks into a bar and says,

*I'd like to know what my
regular handwriting is*

Sharp and angular: aggressiveness, criticism or control

You must have had a huge number of jobs and satisfactions in your life, as well as the desire to achieve things of beauty. I hope you will continue to derive such pleasure as this effort was many years ago.

Sample #1

Sample #2

Sample #3

Carlos Pedregal, a graphologist, was shown handwriting samples of famous people (above) obtained from a New York autograph dealer without knowing who they were. His observations (see story) were extremely accurate.

I'd like to know about my regular handwriting reveals about my personality

Interrupted: intuitive leaps

The way handwriting moves within the space of the page tells a graphologist about our feelings toward ourselves and others, the past and the present. Very wide spaces between words or lines can show shyness and isolation. Writing that slants uphill (on an unlined page) says that its writer is feeling "up," a downward slope, just like slumped shoulders, shows discouragement or depression. How does your best friend end her words or sentences? If the last stroke reaches out, so does she. If it curves back toward the word, it can indicate

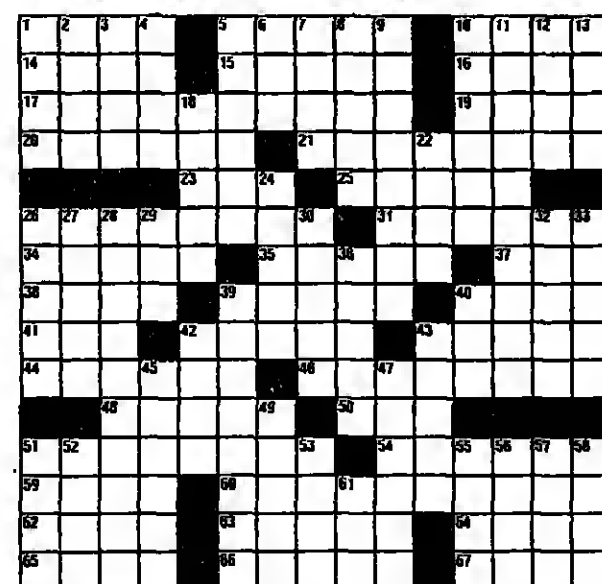
Graphology will undoubtedly continue to be controversial, but more and more people are using it in their professional and private lives — and swearing by the results.

The most popular and time-honoured use of handwriting analysis, though, is to give us new insight into ourselves — and the ones we love. That's how Carlos Pedregal likes best to use it. I owe a deeper understanding of my own life's journey to that afternoon when I showed him my writing — and caught a glimpse of myself in graphology's magic mirror.

Sample 3: regular handwriting is sharp and angular: aggressiveness, criticism or control

Fluid and rounded: an easygoing, flexible nature

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Damn Yankas" role
 - 5 Morocco's capital
 - 10 Salamanders
 - 14 Novel of British musicals
 - 15 Wipe off the slate
 - 16 Evening in Venice
 - 17 Conductor of the New York Philharmonic
 - 19 "the light fantastic"
 - 20 Menotti heroine
 - 21 Whirlwinds
 - 23 Exploding material, for short
 - 25 1 or 68
 - 26 Take into account
 - 31 Persistent attempts to gain control
 - 34 Like a calla lily
 - 35 month
 - 37 Talk, mod style
 - 38 Heavyweight champ, 1934-35
 - 39 Drinks at the fountain
 - 40 Dog that want to Oz
 - 41 Ading
 - 42 — matal (nicka alloy)
 - 43 Morley of "60 Minutes"
 - 44 Chiat part of honey
 - 46 City building
 - 48 Keyboard instrument
 - 50 Big —, Calif.
 - 51 Complainer
 - 54 Dined sparingly
 - 59 Fire — (semiprecious stone)
- DOWN**
- 60 Conductor from Shenyang, China
 - 62 Nothing more than
 - 63 Taro rootstocks
 - 64 Gilbert & Sullivan star
 - 65 Eliot's Adam
 - 66 Advantaga
 - 67 In addition
 - 1 Judy's daughter
 - 2 Egg, in old Roma
 - 3 Part of the aar
 - 4 Seed appendage
 - 5 Order back
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Thai money
 - 8 American trapper and capitalist
 - 9 Hybrid floral beauties
 - 10 Landed manor
 - 11 Composer of "Grand Canyon Suite"
 - 12 The Supramas, a.g.
 - 13 Nitwits
 - 18 Lustrous
 - 22 Night, in Caan
 - 24 Wyoming mountain range
 - 26 Humble abode
 - 27 Clerical wear
 - 28 Composer-playwright from Britain
 - 29 Title for Gleigud
 - 30 Sublease
 - 32 Devoured
 - 33 Big-time

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
JUST SHORT OF GREATNESS

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ K J 10 7 2
♦ 7
♣ 5 3 2

WEST
♠ K J 10
♥ A Q 9 6
♦ 10 4 3
♣ 10 9 6

EAST
♠ A 6 3
♥ 8 3
♦ K 9 8 5 2
♣ A J 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 5
♥ 5 4
♦ A Q J 6
♣ K Q 8 7

The bidding:
North 1 NT Pass
East 2 ♦ Pass
South 2 ♣ Pass
West 2 ♦ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

There's an old saying at tournament bridge: "Never let the opponents play at the one-level." By and large, that's sensible. If the auction dies meekly at the one-level, it means that the balance of strength is just about even. Going one down competitively could net you an excellent score. However, we do impose limits on what we need to balance.

Reopening the bidding was taken to great lengths on this hand from the finals of the Reisinger. When Zia Mahmood and Jaggy Shvadasant of the eventual winning team, who were using a weak no trump opening bid, did not proceed beyond the first bid, North reopened with two diamonds — a bid showing the major suits. Mahmood, West, was delighted to double two spades. He was not quite as happy when he led the ten of clubs and dummy appeared, for it was obvious that every card lay right for declarer. East won the ace of clubs and re-

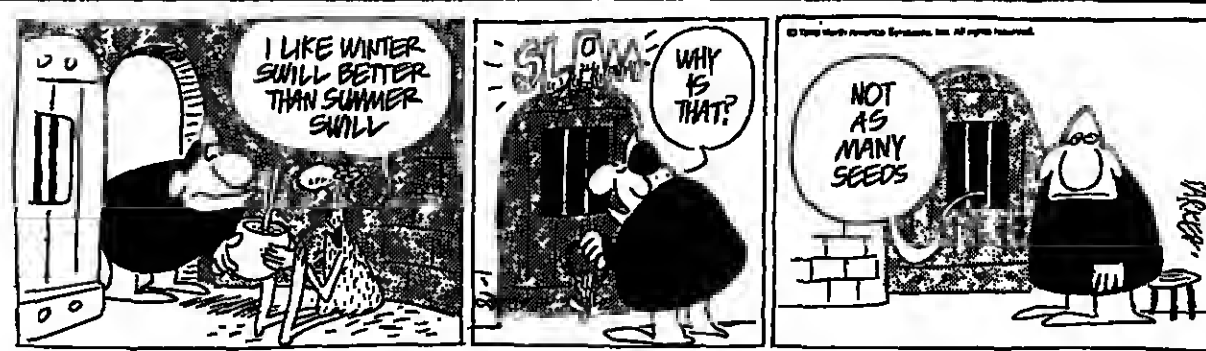
turned the suit to declarer's king. Had declarer now led a trump from hand, the defenders would have had to win and lead the ace of hearts and another immediately, or else declarer would get home, losing only one heart, one club and three trumps. Perhaps declarer should have played for that, for down one doubled and vulnerable would certainly lose the board.

Instead, declarer led a heart. West won the ace and persevered with clubs. A diamond to the ace and a diamond ruff was followed by the king of hearts and a heart ruff as East stuffed a diamond. Another diamond ruff put declarer on the table for another heart lead. He needed only to score his queen of trumps for his contract. But East was alive to what was happening. He ruffed with the ace of trumps and led a trump, and the defense prevailed.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will be in high spirits and should avoid doing anything rash. Do not close your mind to change instead welcome it. Try not to waste money. Be flexible.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You will be able to make the right response. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Try to help a friend you know is under quite considerable strain just now. Be considerate.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
Mars's influence will make it easier for you to deal with a family matter. You will be able to take the initiative. You should avoid wasting time or dissipating your energies. Be resilient.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
Have a good laugh at yourself. You will be able to resolve a problem that has been confounding you for some time. You should try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Be fair.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will be better able to deal with certain uncertainties. You should not make up your mind on the spur of the moment. Do not waste time on secondary matters. Be more positive.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You should take a little better care of your health. Make sure you do not eat anything that you know is not good for you. Avoid doing anything that is not strictly practical. Be attentive.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will not feel quite as confident as you would like. However you will soon find reason to have more faith in yourself. Do not take everything quite so seriously. Be moderate.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Do not allow others to tell you what to do but do take note of good ideas. Concentrate on what you know has to be done. Make sure you understand what is at stake. Be prompt.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You should do your utmost to maintain harmony with your partner. Try to face up to the facts and do not hide from reality. Use a little more commonsense. Be tactful.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
The planetary influences are somewhat mixed and you should exercise a little more caution. You will have something to be quite pleased about.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You would do well to be a little more patient. Now is not the time to try to do things by force, persuasion is still your best bet. You would do well to await developments. Be sincere.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You should not neglect your personal affairs altogether. Nor however should you put work to one side. Do not spend too much time chatting and do not engage in gossip. Be more tolerant.

Brain tissue transplant brings hope for Parkinson's disease sufferers

By Sergio Carrillo

MEXICO CITY, (Reuters): Until a few months ago, Leonor Cruz Bello could barely eat without help.

Her face was stiff, her right arm paralysed. She dragged her right leg as she walked.

She has Parkinson's disease, a debilitating nervous system disorder which occurs when the brain does not produce adequate amounts of a substance called dopamine.

But in September she underwent a revolutionary operation, which attracted worldwide attention.

Dr Ignacio Madrazo and his team of surgeons performed a double brain tissue transplant in a Mexico City state hospital, using the tissue of a 13-week-old spontaneously aborted foetus.

"This is a window that has been opened for many people, like those that I met who are worse off than I was," Cruz said, as she demonstrated how she can move her right arm and walk, albeit slowly, with only a slight limp. Her facial stiffness has disappeared, and she can now eat by herself.

In the first brain tissue transplant ever reported, Madrazo operated on Cruz and another Parkinson's patient, Mario Tellez Martinez. Neither has shown any sign of rejecting the tissue.

"The operation was something that had to be done and we said, 'let's do it,'" said Cruz, a 35-year-old former secretary. Although it is too early to



Mexican doctor Ignacio Madrazo has developed a promising treatment for Parkinson's disease.

assess the long-term effectiveness of the procedure, Madrazo's patients voiced confidence.

"I've got a lot of faith in the result," Cruz said in her home in Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl, a working class city near Mexico City.

"I only thought of moving ahead, of at least stopping the disease's advance, and that has already been won," said Cruz.

"It was my 50th birthday the day they operated on me," said Tellez, a retired textile worker. "It was like being born again."

For nine years before the surgery, he had endured stiffness and uncontrollable shaking on his left side.

Now, he walks without difficulty, strolling the streets of his southern Mexico City neighbourhood with his grandchildren.

side by side, lasted five hours. They then spent six weeks in special isolation wards to avoid infection.

Madrazo, the 45-year-old chief of neurosurgery at Mexico City's La Raza medical centre, will observe the patients for a few more months before a final evaluation of the procedure.

But he said that he considers the acceptance of the implanted brain tissue as a significant step forward.

The operation, the fruit of 22 years Madrazo spent researching Parkinson's disease, should contribute toward developing treatment of other neurological disorders, including epilepsy and senility, he said.

Madrazo was also involved in other experimental treatments for Parkinson's in which parts of the patients' own adrenal glands were implanted in their brains — and which for a time aroused the interest of ex-boxer Muhammad Ali. But in some such cases, dramatic initial improvements levelled off.

With limited technical and financial resources at his disposal, Madrazo chose to attempt the most obvious, but at the same time the most daring and ingenious procedure.

He said other researchers had ignored trying the brain tissue transplant on humans, despite encouraging results in animals.

"We did what the developing countries forgot to do," he said, adding with a laugh, "in some ways poverty helped us have more ingenuity than technology."



Facing up to back pain

By Liz Gill

BACKACHE is the price we pay for being human. Man is not the only creature to walk on two legs, but from toddlerhood onward, his spine must carry its burden upright for the rest of his life.

And the price can be high. Various estimates have put working days lost because of back trouble at anything between 19 million and 31 million a year. Mrs Nora King, an information officer for the Back Pain Association, in the UK, says: "It has been calculated that if you add everything up — lost production, sick pay, treatment and so on — the total could be as high as a billion pounds."

About 2.2 million people a year see a doctor about a back problem. Yet although it is a common complaint, many sufferers feel extremely isolated.

"They may feel they're not being taken seriously because it's not an illness that shows," King says. "But it can affect one's life so drastically, especially if one is in constant pain. Life is very restricted and people get very depressed and can become obsessive."

Chronic back pain may cause emotional problems, but despite the frequency of the trouble its causes are still baffling.

Michael Sullivan, consultant surgeon at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, who runs a problem back clinic, believes that 70 per cent of the working population will suffer from back pain at some time. He also believes that only about 15 per cent of cases lend themselves to a clear-cut diagnosis.

"I mean in the strict scientific sense of being able to say 'You have X, and if we do Y and Z you will get better'. In many cases you can go to 10 different doctors and get 10 different diagnoses."

Wear and tear

The majority of back problems are mechanical wear and tear, small fractures, overstretched muscles, and prolapsed discs (slipped) is a misnomer. These may be caused by sporting injuries, ageing, accidents, awkward lifting and carrying, and other strenuous and unusual movement.

Inflammation may set in as the legacy of such an injury, or independently, or as part of another illness such as infection or general joint weakness.

Surgery is only rarely indicated, perhaps for one in 2,500 cases, and then only for very specific conditions such as certain fractures, removal of the disc, or enlargement of a narrowed spinal canal.

"Surgery in other cases would be a sledgehammer to crack a nut," Sullivan says.

"The good news is that most people will get better anyway in six weeks. Time is what makes people better. In the meantime, rest and pain relief."

It is when time does not prove the greater healer that sufferers are frequently drawn to complementary medicine. Because so much is still unknown about backache, seeking help in physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic, the Alexander Technique, homeopathy, acupuncture, even faith healing, seems a reasonable alternative.

Professor Malcolm Jayson, head of the Rheumatic Diseases Centre at Manchester's Hope Hospital, uses acupuncture to relieve pain. "It doesn't cure the problem, but it does seem to block the pain response," where pain seems intractable, he will work with a clinical psychologist to teach the patient how best to cope.

Genuine sufferers have always been bedevilled by the fact that a "bad back" is the classic malingerer's complaint. "If you tell me you have a bad back I can't call you a liar," Sullivan says. "You can X-ray someone and find they have a horrendous back, but they feel fine. Conversely, someone can appear to have a normal spine and be in dreadful pain."

He believes shunning is extremely rare. "But you do have the massive problem of people becoming totally fixated on their pain pattern. They get locked into it. Look at Florence Nightingale, who came back from the Crimea and retired to bed with a bad back virtually for the rest of her days."

Obvious

He sees about 2,500 patients a year, more women than men. "Men seem to have more backache but it doesn't last. Whereas women seem to have more chronic problems, but we don't know why this should be so."

Where no obvious cause can be found, some argue that muscular tension may be the cause. Teachers of the Alexander Technique, for instance, believe that we begin to misuse our bodies in terms of balance, posture, and movement at such an early age that bad habits become so deeply ingrained that we are not even aware of them. Based on principles evolved in the last century by a Tasmanian actor, Frederick Alexander, the technique is used to demonstrate ways of "unlearning" such faults.

But Mrs Margaret Farrar, chairperson of the Teachers' Society, says: "We don't claim to be skilled in diagnosis. We always ask people if they've been checked by a doctor. We see ourselves as educators rather than therapists. We try to give a person an idea of what something could be like. We

have more choice in the ways in which we use ourselves than we think."

Dr Robin Pauc, a chiropractor and author of *The Back Book — The Owner's Guide to Spinal Problems*, believes that more attention should be paid to congenital defects like an asymmetrical sacral base (the foundation of the spine), and developmental problems such as one leg being shorter than the other. "These are not always noticeable because the body has compensated and twisted itself in the process."

He also wants to see patients X-rayed standing up, bearing their own weight. "If you think of the spine, the vertebrae, as blocks of wood, with the discs as sponges in between, then if you lie down all the sponges may look the same, it's only where there's pressure that you can see the effects."

He says that new causes of back injury are arising all the time. "Take windsurfing, for example. People try to lug these heavy, waterlogged sails out of the sea from completely the wrong angle. There are also psychological stresses. People get backache after a loss. The business executive is under strain and suddenly his back goes."

Problems

Though back problems prompt a wide range of theories, experts in different fields do seem to agree about certain fundamentals.

Advice ranges from the best lifting and carrying techniques (for a manual labourer in industry or a nurse moving a patient), to the best way to weed a garden (kneeling pad or small stool). It advises on back protection in the kitchen (work surfaces of the right height), in the car (a small cushion where necessary), and in bed (firm but comfortable). It recommends good posture, some exercise, and avoidance of obesity.

Jayson would now add smoking to list of don'ts. His team recently announced encouraging results in the trials of a drug used to dissolve fibrin, a protein which is used to repair tissue but which, if not cleared away by a particular enzyme, can cause scarring and inflammation. Smoking, he suggests, may cause the enzyme defect.

"The drug does not cure, but it has made a marked improvement in some very severe cases. One woman I saw this week used to be incapacitated with pain, but is now back at work part-time. In the last few years, research has advanced considerably, particularly in imaging techniques. Computerised scanning has enabled us to see, in detail, what's happening in a way that ordinary X-rays could not. I'm reasonably optimistic for the future."

Gene loss linked to cancer

By Malcolm Ritter

NEW YORK, (AP): Lung cancer tumors lack some normal genetic material, indicating that loss of a key gene may promote one form of the prevalent cancer killer, a new study says.

If the gene can be isolated, it might lead to new therapies for "small-cell" lung cancer, which strikes 30,000 to 40,000 people in the United States annually, said researcher John Minna.

The gene may also play a role in other types of lung cancer, and in cancers of the skin and kidney, said Minna, chief of the NCI's medical oncology branch of the National Cancer Institute, and professor of medicine at the uniformed services University of the health sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

Small-cell lung cancer accounts for 20 percent to 25 percent of the nation's 150,000 annual lung cancer cases and about a quarter of its 136,000 lung cancer deaths each year, the Cancer Institute says.

The study provides "much stronger evidence" for the gene's existence than previous research did, said Stephen Friend, visiting scientist at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In contrast to cancer-causing oncogenes, the gene seems to suppress cancer somehow, so that malignancy appears when it is damaged or missing. Evidence for similar "anti-oncogenes," also called suppressor genes, has been found in several cancers. The list includes colon-rectum cancer, America's second most common serious malignancy.

In a recent interview, Minna said he believes the lung cancer gene normally controls cell growth and development. So when the gene is missing, cells continue to reproduce without normal regulation, setting them up for further genetic damage, that finally produces the cancer, he says.

A normal cell gets two copies of genes by inheriting 23 pairs of chemical threads called chromosomes, on which genes reside. Both copies of a suppressor gene must be lost or damaged to open the road to cancer, scientists believe.

Minna said if a lung cell carries one damaged copy of the gene, it may begin to turn cancerous after losing its normal copy through deletion of genetic material.

The original genetic damage and the deletion might be triggered by smoking, which is associated with more than 95 percent of small-cell cases, Minna said.

It is conceivable, but only speculative, that a damaged gene could also be inherited from parents, Minna said. If so, scientists may be able to devise a test to find it and so identify people susceptible to small-cell lung cancer, he said.

However, Robert Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute emphasised there is "not a shred of evidence" that the defective gene is ever inherited from parents.

"On the basis of the evidence Minna has, there's every reason to say the gene that is involved becomes damaged somatically," which means within the cancer victim's own body, Weinberg said.

The new work involved comparing cancerous and normal cells from nine victims of small-cell lung cancer.

Scientists checked both kinds of cells for the presence of three types of genetic signposts located in one area of chromosome 3. If a signpost found in a person's normal tissue was missing in his cancerous tissue, part of the chromosome must have been lost.

Every patient showed loss of one or more signposts, the researchers reported.

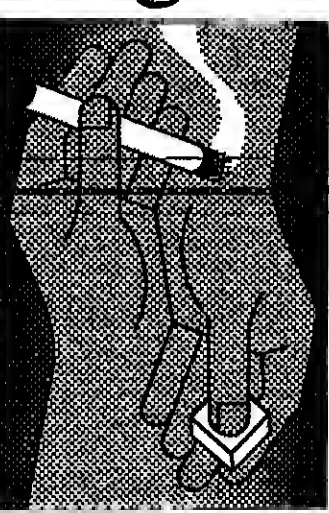
By Henry Gee

ANTI-SMOKING chewing-gum with twice the usual content of nicotine helps committed smokers to break their habit, but there is a risk that they become addicted to the gum.

This is the conclusion of a study of 173 unwilling smokers at the Gentofte Hospital in Copenhagen, reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The researchers say that "putting the dose of nicotine in a stick of gum to 4 milligrams succeeds in keeping a third of formerly heavy smokers off tobacco for two years. Danish anti-smoking gum at present has 2mg of nicotine per stick, but only about 6 per cent of those using it had stopped smoking after two years."

Philip Tonneson, leader of the research group, also explains how some less heavily addicted smokers can be induced to give up by the use of "placebo" gum. This looks and tastes exactly like the commercial product except that (unknown to the patient) it contains no nicotine. The Copenhagen study has shown that, among light smokers, there is no difference between the proportions of those taking placebo gum and ordinary nicotine gum who have not smoked for two years.

Stuck on gum



The group's chief recommendation is that extra-strong gum should be available on prescription to really heavy smokers. This is already the case in Britain, while the makers of Nicorette, the only nicotine gum on sale in the United States, plan to apply to the US Food and Drug Administration for approval to market 4mg gum later in the year. The drawback seems to be

that smokers reformed by the use of gum may end up as addicted to it as to tobacco. In the Danish study, 15 per cent of those treated with gum were still using it after two years — four times as long as recommended by the manufacturers.

Acknowledging that these nicotine doses will themselves be a problem, Tonneson nevertheless believes that addiction to nicotine gum is the lesser evil, the side-effects are minor compared with the health hazards of smoking.

Meanwhile, there may be hope for gum addicts in the findings of a group of three medical researchers at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School and the Addiction Research Centre at Baltimore, Maryland. Writing in *The Lancet* of January 2, they describe their work with a man who had given up a 60-a-day habit of 21 years only to become addicted to nicotine gum. They prepared special packs of gum in which some sticks contained nicotine as usual while others were placebos. By increasing the proportion of placebo gum-sticks with the passing weeks, the man is said to have been weaned from his dependence.

The Danish researchers are at pains to emphasise that the use of nicotine gum is not a substitute for proper counselling.

Parents: monitor children for cholesterol

CHILDREN should have their blood-cholesterol levels monitored if they have a close relative who suffers from coronary heart disease, Iowa scientists say.

But healthy children from families with no history of heart disease probably do not need to be screened, they said.

High cholesterol levels are associated with hardening of the arteries and other heart diseases, doctors say, and can be controlled to some extent with drugs, diet and exercise.

Scientists from the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics based their recommendation on a study of 2,000 individuals that has lasted 15 years. The study subjects, who were aged 12 to 18 when the study began, were monitored regularly for blood cholesterol levels.

Dr. Ronald M. Lauer, who headed the study, said in a report to the American Heart Association that only 4 per cent of the subjects had high levels of cholesterol as children that persisted into adulthood.

The majority of the subjects who had high levels of cholesterol in childhood, 60 per cent, did not have high levels in adulthood.

Lauer said of the 173 children of fathers with coronary heart disease, 51 per cent had high cholesterol levels and other signs of pending coronary problems when they reached adulthood.

Smoke alarms

that clotting factors in the blood decrease when people give up smoking, but increase if they switch to cigars. This is because they still use the same smoking technique and continue to inhale. Cigar smoke is more noxious

than cigarette smoke. People who still can't give up smoking may eventually have another treatment to try — a nicotine "patch" which will supply, through the skin, a steady stream of nicotine to the bloodstream, thus providing the hit while users attempt to kick the habit.

However, at present the idea is still in the early stages of development and so is not yet generally available.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My wife had the baby, but it's me who's depressed. Do fathers always feel this way?

ANSWER: Although it's not unusual for a father to experience depression after the birth of a child in response to a changing lifestyle, this type of negative reaction is not the norm.

Certainly we all have heard stories about the "baby blues," marked by wild mood swings and crying jags. But research has shown that while new parents both have ups and downs, their moods are usually more positive than negative.

For instance, recent studies asked couples to chart their feelings at three different time periods: during the last three months of pregnancy, within two days after the birth of their child and six months later. Instead of listing terms typically associated with depression such as "depressed," "discouraged" and "sad," they listed coping terms such as "helpless," "nervous" and "worried," or positive emotions like "happy" and "enthusiastic." If your depression persists, it might be a sign of some unspoken concern such as worry over money or the health of your child. Talking

FATHERS SOMETIMES ARE DEPRESSED AFTER BABY'S BIRTH

out your feelings with your wife or the family doctor should offer some relief.

QUESTION: Can multiple sclerosis be effectively treated with high-pressure oxygen?

ANSWER: It appears, from recent research, that patients who recently have developed multiple sclerosis (MS) benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO), or what you call high-pressure oxygen.

HBO, which is scarce and expensive in this country, is known primarily for its use with deep-sea divers to prevent the bends. Only about 150 HBO chambers are used medically here. The number probably will grow rapidly.

During HBO treatment, patients are in an HBO chamber where their bodies are subjected to 100 per cent oxygen atmosphere at two to three times normal atmospheric pressure. Oxygen concentrations in their bloodstreams increase about 10-15 times normal and apparently help keep tissues alive that have been deprived of their normal blood supply.

MS is called the crippler of young adults because it is the most common central nervous disorder among such people in the

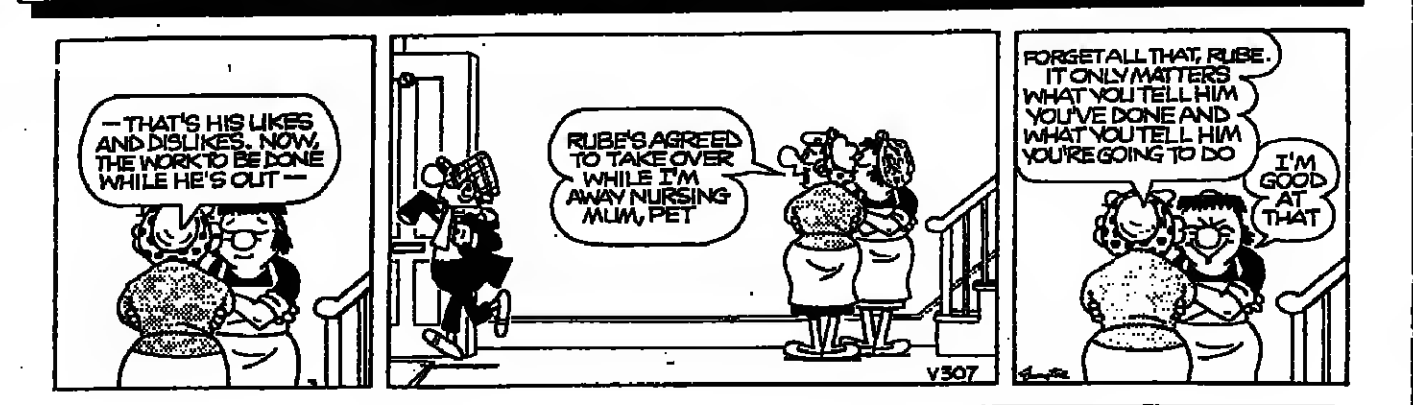
United States, has no known cause, an unpredictable course, a wide variety of symptoms and no known cure.

Some researchers say HBO is the most effective treatment that can be given to "early MS." If given early, it can arrest MS in 70 per cent of patients. The only known side effect from HBO is minor ear problems from the pressure.

ACROSS MY DESK: It's always nice to know where you telethon dollars go so let me tell you of a recent announcement by Jerry Lewis, national chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Recent discoveries by MDA researchers indicated that the drug prednisone could be effective in increasing patients' strength and ability to walk in sufferers of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most severe form of the disease. Though absolutely not recommended for treatment at this time, prednisone will be used in a large-scale, controlled study to confirm the positive aspect of this therapy and to find a way to reduce its significant side effects. Such experimental leads may provide new, more effective and safer treatments in the future.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts to discuss ways to promote Kuwait investments in France

PARIS, Feb. 28. (Kuna): A group of leaders in France's largest economic institutions are scheduled to attend a seminar next month in Kuwait on ways to promote Kuwaiti investments in France.

The seminar, titled "Kuwaiti investments in France: facilities and prospects" is organised by the "Franco-Arab countries" group and the Paris-based Kuwaiti-French Bank.

Secretary General of the Kuwaiti-French Bank Mariage Rampelberg told the Kuwait News Agency today that the idea of the seminar developed during the joint commission meetings which were headed by French Minister of State for Economic and Financial Affairs Edouard Balladur and his Kuwaiti counterpart Jasssem Al Khorafi recently in Kuwait.

She said that chairmen and general directors of about 20 French companies will attend the seminar which is scheduled for March 8.

Rampelberg added that these companies represent the construction, tourism, banking, insurance and transport sectors of the French economy.

The participants will go there to meet potential and existing Kuwaiti investors since France is receiving competition from the British and Spanish markets in the domain of Kuwaiti investment, she said.

So far, Kuwaiti investments in France have been limited compared to operations to other European countries, but the Kuwaiti-French Bank which was established in 1981, came to offer investment portfolios to Kuwaiti investors in France.

Eighty per cent of the bank's capital was made up by a consortium of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Real Estate bank, the Commercial bank of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti offshore group, Pearl Holdings. The rest of the capital came from the "Credit Commercial et Industriel" Bank of Paris.

Preparations underway for 4th Arab energy meeting

BAGHDAD, Feb. 28. (Opecna): Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi met Dr Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, acting secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), last week to review final preparations for the fourth Arab energy conference opening here on March 14.

Al Wattari, who was on a visit here, delivered a lecture at the 11th course in basic petroleum and gas industry which began early last week.

Development
At the last meeting of the follow-up committee, Al Wattari declared that integrated and balanced pan-Arab development could only be achieved if optimum and economic use was made of energy sources and proper attention was paid to energy rationing and diversification of the sources of energy.

He explained that the conference would discuss all aspects of energy, including resources, supply and demand. A comprehensive review was also made of the oil industry and the latest exploration and production technologies.

In Europe, widely traded Brent field crude from the North

Plan to set up common Gulf market

Kuwait stock market stable: Khorafi

KUWAIT'S Finance Minister Jasssem Al Khorafi yesterday expressed optimism over the current situation of Kuwaiti economic organisations and attributed the stagnant world economic situation to the policy of the United States.

In an interview with a local daily, the Kuwaiti minister rejected any present deadlock in the Kuwaiti market, stressing that the local real estate market has been revived and the stock market is stable while economic associations are developing.

Al Khorafi noted, however, that current situations in the region are complicated and strongly associated with the economic situation here. "In another country", he added.

"situation could have been worse. Stock exchange market would have been closed down but we in Kuwait continued."

Drop
Kuwaiti economic establishments suffered a drop in their assets, disturbance in their structures and anomalies in their departments but all that have been cured, Al Khorafi affirmed.

Meanwhile, he expressed hope for the establishment of a common Gulf market through the Gulf Cooperation Council economic agreement.

Concerning Kuwaiti investments in the United States, Britain, Japan and Asia he said that "they stand on a good foundation."

Commenting on the current economic situation in Asia, he



Al Khorafi

said that it is a result of the American economic situation which suffers from a trade deficit, particularly with Japan which is keen to survive in Asia in order to use its markets to get through indirectly to US markets.

He also talked of the world economic problem saying it is very much connected with US policy. The US will go through the election year shortly and this will delay any clear-cut resolutions on the issue adding that industrial countries will start to feel the negative outcome of the present US situation and will treat this matter by finding realistic solutions.

Workers

In the meantime, Al Khorafi expressed dissatisfaction over the present situation of joint Arab economic organisations, pointing out, "we expanded these organisations without sufficient study and this is due to the past economic boom."

He indicated that the work in

some organisations contradicted with that in the other, in addition that some organisations were exploited by their workers who benefited from some privileges like customs exemptions and free exchange of hard currency.

But the Kuwaiti official hoped that such corruption would be examined thoroughly in meetings of the Arab League economic council and the eight-man committee.

The eight-man committee was formed more than two years ago to follow this issue. It includes in its membership Arab experts who are not officials in such organisations.

Al Khorafi hopes that the committee would reach suitable decisions during its extraordinary meeting next July.

Sharp rise in shipments of manufactured goods

World trade to grow again by 4pc, says GATT

GENEVA, Feb. 28. (Reuters): International trade, led by a sharp rise in shipments of manufactured goods, grew by four per cent last year and seemed set to match that rate again in 1988, the world trade body GATT reported today.

The forecast was made "barring a further upheaval in financial markets or a serious recession in the United States," the annual report by economists of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said.

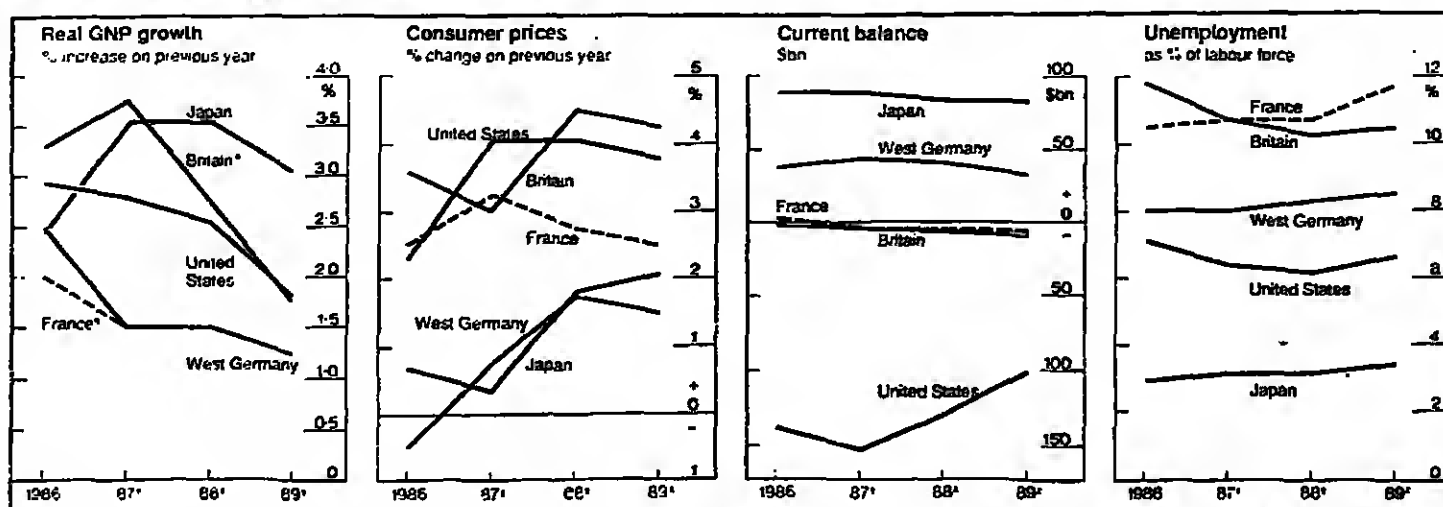
The 1987 growth rate of four per cent marked a slight improvement on the 3.5 per cent to the previous year, and was the second strongest annual increase this decade.

Confidence
Damage to consumer and investor confidence after the stock market crisis of last October appeared less severe than originally forecast, the report said.

"Developments in world stock markets since October do not seem to have had any immediate adverse effect on world trade," Richard Blackhurst, GATT chief economist, told Reuters.

Expansion
Rather, available data suggested that the jump in merchandise trade in the fourth quarter of 1987 exceeded the average rise for the first three quarters.

The value of merchandise exports last year leapt by 15.5 per cent to a record \$2,450 billion.



This reflected trade expansion, as well as an increase in the value of the US currency and higher dollar prices for petroleum and other primary commodities, the report said.

Referring to the huge US current account deficit and surpluses in Japan and West Germany, the report said: "If 1988 sees progress in reducing the large current account imbalances, there would be an added boost to investor confidence in the functioning of the world economy."

The increase in the volume of world commerce to 1987 was led by a five per cent increase in trade in manufactures, against 3.5 per cent the previous years.

Exports of agricultural products rose by an estimated four per cent in volume — after a one per cent decline in 1986 — for the strongest gain on a volume basis since 1981.

Decline
"These two developments more than offset a marginal decline in trade in mining products in 1987," the report said. A drop in petroleum trade, due to a sharp recovery in prices, largely accounted for the decline in overall trade in mining products.

Global agricultural production declined by an estimated three per cent — for the first time since 1950. This was partly due to lower market prices, lower sup-

port prices and supply control measures for cereal and dairy products in some nations.

Japan and China increased their agricultural imports substantially, the GATT economists said, but gave no figures.

US import of manufactured goods slowed in 1987, the report added, but again gave no figure. The growth rate in merchandise trade increased by a modest 2.5 per cent against a whopping 11 per cent the previous year.

Imports
US exports rose by 11.5 per cent to volume.

West German imports of merchandise expanded by 5.5 per cent, against 6.5 the previous year, while exports rose by three

per cent against 1.5 per cent in 1986.

Import volumes expanded rapidly to Portugal and Spain, new members of the 12-member European Economic Community.

Preliminary data indicated significant declines in import volumes in Norway, Denmark and Australia.

Japan had a moderate 1.5 per cent drop in export volume, and a seven per cent growth of imports, the report said.

The volume of exports and imports of four other Asian nations — Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan — as a group each increased by more than 20 per cent.

Oil prices likely to fall further

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Crude oil prices, which fell by around a dollar a barrel last week, could slide another 50 cents in the coming week due to abundant world supplies, analysts say.

The US benchmark grade of crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, closed at a 1988 low on Friday at \$17.78 a barrel for April contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). Over the past week, the April contract lost 92 cents a barrel.

"Crude prices could fall to the \$15 to \$15.50 a barrel range in the short-term. At that point there may be renewed interest to buy," said Ray Marchica, oil futures analyst with US-based Cargill Investor Services.

In Europe, widely traded Brent field crude from the North

Sea Brent ended on Friday at \$14.47 a barrel for immediate delivery — its lowest since November, 1986 — and \$14.95 for April contracts. The Brent spot price had started last Monday around \$15.65.

Marchica and other US analysts said, however, they did not expect either a major slide in prices or any extreme overproduction from the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in the short-term.

"There won't be a wholesale crash in prices as in 1986. We won't see \$12 a barrel oil," Marchica said. In mid-1986, crude prices touched \$4 a barrel on a glutted market.

But analysts said that when prices could not decisively move back above the \$16 mark, technical, chart-related factors

pulled the market down further. "This week's bearish tendency is linked to rumours of Opec overproduction and the report of large consumer stocks," said Stephen Platt, futures analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Last Wednesday, the US Energy Information Administration reported US crude oil stocks rose 8.5 million barrels, which came as a surprise to the market after the American Petroleum Institute reported a 1.9 million barrel fall for the same week.

Reason
Traders said the EIA's figures were alarming because much of the inventory growth was in the US Gulf of Mexico coast where the US refining industry is centred.

"The EIA figures were as good a reason as any for this week's

softer prices," said Marchica. "But there's been a lot of restlessness and frustration down on the (NYMEX) floor by locals to see prices break in some direction after they hovered near \$17 for so long."

"Locals" are independent oil traders who buy and sell for their own accounts, often buying contracts in the morning and selling them in the afternoon. Add to the selling pressure were reports and rumours of increased Opec production.

Japanese oil industry sources said Opec production might turn out to have been 18 million barrels per day in February, and the London-based securities firm of Kleinwort Greaveson Securities estimated that early February Opec output was about 17.7 million bpd, up from 17.2 million bpd in January.

Indonesia gets \$110m in Ibad assistance

JAKARTA, Feb. 28. (Opecna): During the past eight years Indonesia received about \$110 million in financial assistance from the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), according to figures released by the United Nations Information Office here.

The Ifad assistance was used to fund cattle raising programme for small farmers in various parts of the Sumatra island.

The UN office said that the increase in milk production, one of the goals of the programme, increased the farmer's income and promoted the health situation in rural areas.

Financed by Opec countries in cooperation with OECD nations, Ifad has extended about \$10 billion in financial assistance to help raise the living standards of poor farmers.

World Business Summary

US oil companies plan to invest more in 1988

NEW YORK, February 28. (Xinhua): US oil companies which have slashed expenditures over the last six years, plan to boost their budget in 1988 to capitalise on the promising oil boom ahead, the Oil and Gas Journal said in its latest issue.

The oil companies plan to increase their combined annual spending by 12 per cent over 1987, to a total of \$29.72 billion, the journal said. The increase reverses the recurring spending slump since 1981, when the oil industry pumped only \$28.94 billion into exploration, production and refining facilities.

Out of the increased budget for 1988, about \$18 billion will go to exploration and production, and the rest to refining and marketing, the journal said. The major reason behind the capital spending hike is that the outlook for crude oil prices in the coming years is brighter. Most US energy specialists predict a strong recovery for petroleum consumption and prices in the 1990s. Oil prices on the international market have plunged by almost 50 per cent over the last few years. Currently, the crude oil price is hovering between \$16 and 17 per barrel.

The journal also said a portion of the increased outlay will be diverted to foreign countries which offer lower production costs and richer untapped reserves. In 1988, 35 major US oil companies are expected to increase their spending overseas by 17 per cent. The amount devoted to drilling and production alone will reach \$7.6 billion.

Ford earns record profits

FORD Motor Company net income for 1987 was a record \$4.6 billion or \$9.05 per share, chairman Donald E. Petersen and vice chairman Harold A. Poling announced last week. Compared with 1986, earnings were up more than \$1.3 billion or 41 per cent and per share results improved by \$2.89. (Per share results reflect the two-for-one stock split distributed on January 12, 1988). Worldwide dollar sales in 1987 were a record \$71.6 billion, up 14 per cent from 1986. Factory unit sales were 6,115,000, up 131,000 units from last year. "The entire Ford team deserves the credit for the company's success," said Petersen and Poling. The joint effort by employees, suppliers and dealers in bringing the consumer high-quality, value-for-money products was the key to 1987 results.

The new Lincoln Continental is off to a strong start and will be followed this year by a procession of outstanding new products, including the restyled Ford Escort and the new Ford Probe, Ford Thunderbird and Mercury Cougar in North America, the new Sierra RS Cosworth in Europe and a new Falcon in Australia and New Zealand.

In the United States, Ford's earnings of \$3,441 million in 1987 were up \$981 million from 1986, reflecting higher car and truck market shares and continued improvements in manufacturing cost efficiencies. Partial offsets were lower US industry volumes, costs to develop and introduce new products, and higher marketing costs.

Outside the United States, the company earned \$1,184 million, \$359 million higher than in 1986. Higher profits in Europe and Asia-Pacific were offset partially by less favourable results in Latin America. In Europe, record industry volumes, higher market shares and operating efficiencies contributed to the improvement. In Asia-Pacific the earnings increase reflected higher profits throughout the region. In Latin America weak economic conditions in Brazil and start-up costs for Autolatina (Ford's joint venture with Volkswagen in Brazil and Argentina) adversely affected 1987 results.

Abu-Ghazaleh for W. Germany

THE president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants "Jordan" Talal Abu-Ghazaleh will leave today for Dusseldorf, West Germany, heading Asca's first delegation to the board meeting of the International Accounting Standards Committee (Iasc) that will be held from March 1 to 5. The participation in this international body, which is the highest authority for setting and developing accounting standards worldwide, is one of Asca's major achievements. Asca was elected to the board of the Iasc during the last Iasc's International Congress, in Tokyo in October 1987 with the participation of 99 accounting bodies from 74 countries.

The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Asca) "Jordan" aims through its participation in the board of this internationally important committee to establish an effective Arab presence. Asca delegates include: Fouad Al-Abedin of Arthur Anderson & Co. and Munir Al-Borno of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. The Board will discuss the formation of a subcommittee for the harmonisation of application of accounting standards worldwide and the plan for the coming five years.

India to buy Pakistani cotton

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 28. (Xinhua): India has shown willingness to purchase 400,000-500,000 bales of cotton from Pakistan on cash payment basis, Akbar Ali Hashwani, chairman of the Karachi Cotton Association, recently said that he would lead a delegation to visit India by the first week of March to talk over the matter with Indian officials. He said India is very much keen to buy Pakistan's cotton. According to a telephone message, India has already transacted a deal for 75,000 bales of Pakistan cotton from international merchants. India used to buy Pakistan cotton before 1965 when the two neighbouring countries were at war over disputed territory. The deal had been stopped until 1985 when India purchased 85,000 bales of cotton from Pakistan. Hashwani said that besides India, China and the Soviet Union are in line for buying Pakistan's cotton. A Pakistani team will visit Beijing on March 15 to talk about cotton sale. A Soviet team is to visit Pakistan shortly to finalise a cotton deal with Pakistan. Pakistan is expecting to produce more than 8.5 million bales of cotton this year.

Export revenue on the rise

ANKARA, Feb. 28. (Xinhua): Turkey's per capita export revenue rose to \$195 in 1987 from \$65 in 1980, an increase of 200 per cent, Turkish "Daily News" reported here today. Quoting a report from Turkish Foreign Trade Association (Turktrade), the paper reported that Turkey's exports rose from five per cent of the GNP to 17 per cent in the period between 1980 and 1987. Turkey has a population of 52 million, according to official figures and its total exports in 1987 reached \$10.2 billion, setting a record in its export. Turkey's exports now account for 0.5 per cent of total world exports as against 0.1 per cent in 1980, the report said. The Turktrade report said although the country's exports showed such developments, they have not yet become stabilised.

The five-year period between 1983 and 1987 showed a situation in which Turkey's exports were increasing but at a slower rates, it said. This is because in addition to the frequent changes in foreign trade regulations, the government always tended to decrease incentives on exports after periods of high export performances, it added.

Japan's economy growing

TOKYO, Feb. 28. (UPI): Fuelled by the government's \$46 billion pump-pricing package, Japan's economy grew at an estimated 4.0 per cent in 1987, the Sankei Shimbun newspaper reported today. The growth rate compares with 2.4 per cent in 1986. The paper, quoting sources in the Economic Planning Agency, said the nation's gross national product for the October-December period of last year increased a net 1.5 per cent.

The sources attributed the sharp growth for the last quarter to a 6 trillion yen (\$46 billion) economic package implemented by the government in May to stimulate domestic demand. Most of the fund was earmarked for public works projects.

The paper said domestic demand contributed to 2.0 per cent of the GNP growth for the last quarter while external demand caused an adverse effect of 0.5 per cent because of a steep rise in imports caused by the strong yen.

Indian corporate investment may now slow down

Overall increase in GNP unlikely to exceed modest 1.5pc

NEW DELHI, Feb. 28. It will be a tightrope walk for Finance Minister Narayan Datt Tiwari when he presents the Indian budget for 1988-89 to Parliament tomorrow.

The economy and government finances have come under a lot of stress over the last year. Drought, which hits the economy with increasing severity every seven to eight years now, has led to a sharp decline in agricultural production.

The growth in industrial production appears to be slowing down and the overall increase in GNP is unlikely to exceed a modest 1.5 per cent. At the same time, inflation appears to be climbing to double digit heights, according to Business India.

This slowdown in economic growth will in turn hit government revenues in a year when expenditure has been rising on several fronts.

heavy cost of the Indian Army's increasing involvement in Sri Lanka and a jump in the salaries of government employees following the Fourth Pay Commission award.

So even though Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi categorically stated last year that "the deficit is high and I do not like it," it seems virtually impossible that his promise of curbing it at Rs 5,688 crores for 1987-88 can be kept.

The deteriorating state of government finances, as indicated by mounting budgetary deficits and market borrowings, may soon reach crisis proportions.

Policy
In recent years, the government has been unable to meet even its current (or non-capital) expenditure from its current revenues. The government's paper on long term fiscal policy had frankly admitted the dangers of this "negative balance of current revenue" in slowing public investments in key sectors of the economy and resolved to correct the situation by curbing



N.D. Tiwari

expenditure and improving the surplus generation of the public sector enterprises through higher efficiency.

"But today, the long term fiscal policy seems to have been forgotten and little has been done to improve the efficiency of government-owned enterprises," says a senior executive of a financial institution. Unable to make the public sec-

tor yield more savings, the government has been resorting to larger and larger "market" borrowings from a captive banking sector to finance its burgeoning expenditure.

"The government appears to be heading towards an internal debt crisis," warns M. K. Datta Chaudhury, director, Delhi School of Economics. "And there is little room for curbing expenditure." A recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study also shows that if the mindless borrowing continues, then by the early nineties, the debt service obligations of the government may well exceed its capacity to borrow.

On the taxation front, there is little scope to increase or widen indirect taxes. In fact, if the high cost, low quality economy is to be replaced by one that is more efficient and competitive, indirect taxes, particularly customs duties, will have to be gradually reduced and rationalised over a period of time.

As Datta Chaudhury puts it, "Indirect taxation is already too

high. Today it must be used primarily for providing incentives and disincentives to guide production and investment along desirable lines and not for additional resource mobilisation."

Scope

As far as direct taxes are concerned, there may be some scope for widening the tax base to include at least a part of rural incomes as well as urban incomes that manage to escape the tax net.

"There is a lot of taxable income generated by traders, shopkeepers and small business establishments, but the government has not yet concentrated seriously on taxing it," says H. P. Nanda, chairman, Escorts Ltd. "Instead, it has been too preoccupied with taxing organised business." However, such an effort is beset with methodological problems, administrative difficulties and, of course, a lack of political will.

While the scope for raising more revenues is severely limited, there is also little manoeuvrability in curbing expen-

diture. Over three-fourths of the current revenues of the government is eaten away by interest payments (on the mounting internal debt), subsidies (mainly to well-off farmers and to the poor as well as to non-poor consumers of foodgrains) and defence expenditure.

According to data compiled by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE), the gross sales of 709 companies that released their results between February 1987 and January 1988 were up by 13 per cent, but their gross profits increased only by 3 per cent and the net profit declined by 6 per cent.

But the gross fixed asset formation by these companies was growing apace at a healthy 33 per cent.

However, there is concern among financial circles that corporate investment may now slow down in view of the squeeze on profits last year.

Even though the growth rate of industrial production may have slowed down, a 7 to 8 per cent (Continued on Page 11)

UK GDP growth quickens

Weaker dollar will help avert US recession fear

THERE were a number of data releases this week, the most important of which was the fourth quarter real US GNP growth figure which was revised up to 4.5 per cent which was lower than expected and caused the dollar to weaken slightly from the DM1.70 and Y129.50 peak it had touched prior to the announcement, according to National Bank of Kuwait's weekly market report.

On addition the US unit hardly reacted to the Humphrey-Hawkins testimony before congressional committee by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. His speech was as expected and confirmed that he was happy with the dollar's present level, that the US had turned the corner on trade and that the money supply targets would be set at 4.8 per cent. The fall of 2.8 per cent in January's durable goods orders did not move the US unit either.

Treasury Budget was in surplus by \$16.09 billion in January (the fourth month of the 1988 fiscal year), compared to a revised deficit of \$2.12 billion in January 1987. The market had only anticipated \$10.8 billion surplus. The December 1987 deficit was also revised to \$24.22 billion. January's surplus brings the governments total deficit this fiscal year to \$65.81 billion, from \$66.29 billion in the same four months of the 1987 fiscal year. The expected total 1988 deficit is currently estimated to be \$146.7 billion.

Durable Orders fell by 2.8 per cent in January to a seasonally adjusted figure of \$112.23 billion. This was the first monthly drop since November when orders slipped by 0.1 per cent and the largest decline since January 1987 when they fell 8 per cent. The market had been expecting a slightly bigger drop of 2.9 per cent.

Merchandise Trade Deficit fell to \$40.17 billion in October to December fourth quarter from a revised record deficit of \$40.37 billion in the third quarter. It was the first narrowing of a quarterly deficit since the second quarter of 1986.

Revised Real GNP increased 4.5 per cent in the fourth quarter although this was the largest rise since a 5.4 per cent increase in the first quarter of 1986 and greater than the 4.2 per cent increase estimated a month ago, it was lower than the market expectation of 5.3 per cent.

Increase

CPI as expected rose a seasonally-adjusted 0.3 per cent in January following a 0.2 per cent increase in December. Increases in shelter costs, medical care and entertainment were the main reasons for this rise.

Personal Income rose 0.3 per cent, i.e. \$12.2 billion, in January to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of \$387.6 billion. This increase followed a 0.7 per cent rise and a revised 0.4 per cent in November. This rise was slightly below the market forecast of 0.4 per cent.

Personal Consumption Spending rose 0.3 per cent in January following a revised 0.7 per cent increase in December and a 0.5 per cent gain in November. This was again lower than the expected 0.5 per cent forecast. There are still no clear signals of the general drift in the economy despite the release of a number of economic indicators this week. The dollar weakened slightly following news of the revised upward estimate for fourth quarter economic growth but general trading was very quiet.

However, the leading indicators released on Tuesday of next week should give a stronger sign of the general trend although the advantage of the

weaker dollar is that it will help to avert fears of a US recession.

Alan Greenspan's comments this week increased speculation that US inflation will remain subdued and helped spark a bond market rally.

Forecast

He confirmed that the US central bank eased its monetary policy a few weeks ago to reduce short-term interest rates. The Fed is forecasting that growth in real gross national product this year will be in the range of 2.5 per cent.

Sterling was unaffected by the news that UK GDP output increased by 1 per cent because it was within the forecast range, although there were suggestions that the growth rate is likely to continue at quite a strong rate following the data release.

The CBI monthly survey was optimistic indicating continued growth and strong exports which, together with the weakness of the dollar, helped sterling gain support.

During the week the UK unit hovered just below DM3.00 and continued to benefit from favourable interest rate differentials whilst most attention was focussed on the sterling and the market awaited the release of today's UK trade figures.

GDP (output) rose by a provisional 1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1987 over the third quarter to give a year-on-year growth of 5.26 per cent between the last quarter of 1986 and 1987.

This compares with a gain of 2.1 per cent in the third quarter over the second and was higher than the market forecast of 0.5 per cent.

Output data is usually considered the most reliable measure of short-term GDP changes.

With so little economic data released this week the UK market is now keenly awaiting

today's trade balance and current account figures.

A minor improvement is expected which should ensure a base rate hike is highly unlikely short-term, particularly in view of the close proximity of the UK budget on March 15.

Signs of a slowing trend in the economic growth pattern were supported by figures showing construction orders fell by 30 per cent during the last three months of last year compared with the previous three months, although orders for the year as a whole increased by 20 per cent.

In addition, the longer-term economic indicator which looks a year ahead suggests the rate of growth moderate around the middle of the year.

Buoyant

However, UK output rose by nearly 5 per cent last year which was the fastest growth rate since 1973, and although the pace of growth decelerated in the last few months, the overall indication is that the economy has remained buoyant in spite of the October crash. Unfortunately, this did not help dispel nervousness about overheating although the pound's strength against the DM kept fears at bay of higher bank base rates in the near future.

This week a fall in January's producer prices seemed to provide the DM with some support. In addition, the Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, said again that there was no room for movement of the fiscal side in order to stimulate the domestic economy.

Surplus

He believes that private consumption will continue to increase as will real income levels.

West Germany's total trade surplus widened to a record DM117.57 bn in 1987 from

DM112.7 billion mainly due to an improvement in the terms of trade. Exports rose 2.9 per cent and imports increased 5.4 per cent in volume terms.

However, its trade surplus with the US declined by 15 per cent in 1987 which indicates that the trade imbalance between the two countries is being corrected due to the lower dollar. Although the lower import figure was caused by the US unit's steep decline, West Germany imports of US goods were actually higher in volume terms.

In contrast, West Germany's trade surplus with the European Economic Community rose sharply by 20 per cent to DM62 billion. The EEC countries take just over 50 per cent of West German exports compared to the 10 per cent to the US.

Economic news from Japan this week continues to highlight the success of Japan's efforts to boost its domestic economy, whilst maintaining the growth of its exports in order to bring it more into line with its trading partners.

Retail sales rose 7.1 per cent in January following a 6.1 per cent rise in December from a year earlier. In addition, Japan's leading economic indicator, which moves in advance of general business conditions, stood at 72.7 in December. The critical "boom or bust" 50 mark has now been exceeded for 12 consecutive months since January 1987 and stood at 75.0 in November.

However, Japan's money supply growth rate accelerated in January by 11.9 per cent, (10.4 per cent faster than December), which is likely to give rise to renewed concern about inflation because December's downward trend has been reversed.

The Bank of Japan has recently been adopting a passive monetary stance in order to prevent any further rise of the yen.

Squeeze in nickel sends prices soaring

LONDON, Feb 28 (Reuters): The London Metal Exchange (LME) yesterday limited the amount traders may charge each other to borrow nickel as an extremely tight market in the metal sent prices soaring.

Green said traders could not charge more than \$100 a tonne to lend nickel, after charges up to \$240 a tonne reported earlier in the week.

In times of shortage traders cash in, making arrangements amongst themselves to cover operators who are short. In 1985, just before a crisis halted LME trading in tin, the exchange set a limit how much could be charged to lend tin for one day.

Earlier on Friday, the LME board met to consider whether there might be an attempt to corner the market, but decided that a genuine shortage had caused the price rise of recent days.

Later, the LME suspended the first afternoon trading session or "ring" as brokers offered to pay as much as \$15,000 a tonne but no one wanted to sell.

A delayed second ring saw the metal traded at \$10,000 and \$11,000 a tonne.

The price has risen more than \$1,000 in two days and Friday's morning bids equated to \$6.80 a pound, close to record free market levels of 19 years ago.

Demand

Nickel is mainly used in making stainless steel, for which demand has been unexpectedly strong recently following a period when producers cut supplies. Nations where nickel is mined include Australia, Canada, Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Producers will be worried about the steep price rise. Walter Curlock, a vice-president of Inco Ltd, the world's biggest nickel producing company with 34 per cent of the market, said in Frankfurt earlier this month that if nickel became too expensive it would be substituted by cheaper metals.

Stocks held in LME warehouses had fallen to 2,754 tonnes at the end of the last week from 4,584 tonnes at end-December.

Tiwari's budgetary options severely limited

(Continued from Page 10)

increase for the whole year will be no mean achievement.

Most businessmen, bureaucrats and economists are agreed that the government has perfected "the art of drought relief and supply management" over the years.

"This has helped cushion the adverse impact of drought on industrial production," says N. Radhakrishnan, economic adviser, National Council of Applied Economic Research.

"Otherwise, if the essential needs of the people were not met through fair price shops and drought relief works, inflation of agricultural commodities would have been steeper and industry could have faced a crippling demand recession."

According to Nitin Desai, of the Planning Commission, the public distribution system currently delivers around 1.2 million tonnes of foodgrains a year. "This means that about 100 million people are covered by fair price shops," he says. "In addition, about 0.3 million tonnes were distributed specifically for drought relief."

Goods

This impressive supply management on the part of government ensured that the demand for manufactured goods did not fall all that much and prices did not rise even more in a difficult year.

Apart from better drought management, the fall in the share of agriculture in total GNP and the smaller weightage of agro-based industries in the new industrial production index has also reduced the dependence of industrial performance on that of agriculture.

The production of manufactured goods may also have been shored up by the star performer of the year, exports.

In nominal terms, exports were up by an impressive 24.7 per cent during April to December 1987. Even in dollar terms, the growth is impressive at 22.4 per cent.

The target of Rs 13,800 crores for 1987-88 is now expected to be exceeded by Rs 1,000 crores. In that case, the annual exports growth will be over 19 per cent compared with a 14 per cent rise last year.

Imports, on the other hand, have grown much more slowly at 13.5 per cent in nominal terms and 11.5 per cent in dollar terms. If this trend, which started in 1986-87 and has gained momentum this year, is sustained, it could vastly improve the current account deficit, contain the debt servicing ratio within manageable limits and help the government sustain the tempo of liberalisation of faster economic growth.

However, there are a few areas of concern. One, there has been a deceleration in exports during November and December and a pickup in imports. Thus, in the first seven months, exports rose even faster at 27.2 per cent while imports grew more slowly at 11.6 per cent.

Performance

Second, there is a sharp rise in imports this year compared to the small increase of 1.5 per cent in 1986-87. If these trends have persisted from January 1988 onwards, the trade deficit may be only a little smaller than last year's Rs 7,517 crores.

Nevertheless, the export performance has been quite remarkable. "The export performance

KUWAIT						
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	NIGN	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-NATIONAL BANK	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	40000	
-GULF BANK	0.350	0.345	0.345	0.345	60000	
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.250					
-ANLI BANK	0.295					
-B.K.M.E.	0.305	0.300	0.300	0.300	10832	
-K.R.E.B.	0.350					
-BURGAN BANK	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	40000	
-K.F.HOUSE	0.485					
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KUT INV. CO.	0.204					
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210					
-K.I.I.C.	0.160					
-COM.FACILITIES	0.430	0.425	0.425	0.425	20000	
-ANLIAN INV.	0.000					
-I.F.A.	0.110					
-INV. PEARL KUT	0.106					
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KUT INSURANCE	0.710					
-GULF INSURANCE	0.370					
-ANLIA INS. CO.	0.600	0.590	0.590	0.590	20000	
-WARSA INS. CO.	0.485					
REAL EST SECTOR						
-KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.248					
-UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.118					
-NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.232					
-SALMIAN R.E.	0.075					
-KUT PROJECTS	0.094					
-KUT R.E.I.DON	0.000					
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
-NAT IND. CO.	0.520					
-KUT M.P. IND.	0.290					
-KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238					
-REF. IND. CO.	0.380					
-N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000					
-GULF CABLE	0.970					
-K.P.H.IND. CO.	0.126					
-CONT.MARINE	0.350					
-K.SN.REP.CO	0.046					
SERVICES SECTOR						
-OVERLAND TRANS	0.080					
-K.N.C. CO.	0.218					
-KUT HOTELS CO.	0.174					
-P.WAREHOUSING	0.150					
-COM.MKT.CHXP.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	264210	
-MOBILE TELE.	0.385					
-KUT COMPUTER	0.192					
FOOD SECTOR						
-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.244	0.240	0.240	0.240	30000	
-UNITO FISHERIES	0.140					
-UNITO POULTRY	0.238					
-KUT FOODS	0.305					
-AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150					
NON-KUT SECTOR						
-BNM.INTER.BK	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	320000	
-BNM.M.EAST.BK	0.069					
-UNITO GULF BK	0.069					
-COAST INVEST.	0.093					
-A.G.I.VV.CORP	0.039					
-FIRST.GULF BK	0.870					
-B.K.I.G.	0.092					

B.K.I.G.	0.092	----	----	----	----	----	----
KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE							
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL		MARKET					
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	NIGN	LOW	VOL	TRADE	
-PEARL INV.CO.	0.098	LT	----	----	----	----	
-GULF INV.CO.	0.041	----	----	----	----	----	
-GULF INTL INS	0.009	----	----	----	----	----	
-ARAB INT CO.	0.055	----	----	----	----	----	
-SHARJAH INS	0.000	----	----	----	----	----	
-GULF UNION INS	0.055	----	----	----	----	----	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR							
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	----	----	----	----	----	
C-R.K.WHITE CHNT	0.019	----	----	----	----	----	
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	----	----	----	----	----	
E-FUJAI RAN CEMT.	0.009	----	----	----	----	----	
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.011	----	----	----	----	----	
G-GULF CEMENT	0.016	----	----	----	----	----	
H-UNM QATIAH	0.020	----	----	----	----	----	

KD deposit rates ease

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates eased yesterday as the market reopened quickly after a three-day National Day holiday.

Dealers expected high liquidity this week because KD 75 million in three-month treasury bills matured on March 2. There are no new treasury bills or bond issues to absorb the excess, and the Central Bank on Sunday stopped bids for three-month deposits that had dropped up rates for more than a week before the holiday.

The bank announced on Saturday a new treasury bond issue totalling KD 120 million

for March 9 at interest ranging from 5 3/4 per cent for the two-year to 6 1/8 per cent for the five-year.

The fixed periods were all quoted at five, 4 1/2 per cent from 5 1/4, five per cent levels on Wednesday. Two-month deals at 4 5/8 per cent and six and 12-month at five per cent.

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SALMIYA, furnished room for a single working girl or Indian/Pakistani bachelors. Tele 5634802. (AT3-41178-3)

SALMIYA, behind the Salmiya fire station. One big independent room with separate kitchen with water and electricity for a family to share with an Indian family. KD 60 only. Tele. Vipan Oberai, 4740801. (AT3-41183-3)

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FIAT Croma, 1987 model, metallic turquoise, 5 speed gears, full options, full insurance till July 88. Super condition. Tele. 3982742, after 4 pm. (AT2-41132-3)

Audi 200 Turbo, 1984, full options, sunroof, 43,000 km, black, in very good condition KD2450. Tele. Shaktour, 5716473, 1-3 pm after 8 pm. (AT2-41164-3)

MERCEDES 230E, 1982, manual, white, in excellent condition KD1400. Tele. 4840198. (AT1-41158-3)

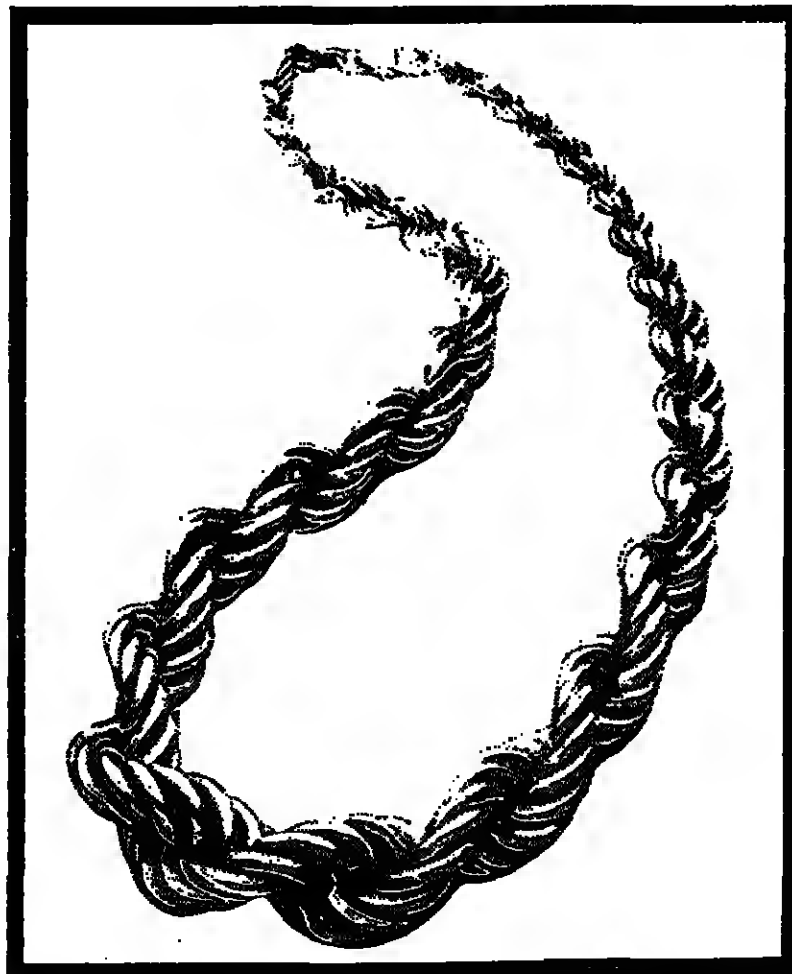
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Miscellaneous

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3. Valid Kuwaiti driving license
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HAWIYA No. 135060 and Civil ID card in the name of Mohan Lal Velji Patel, lost in Shuwaikh. Tele. Mohan Lal, 4834382, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 3.30 - 7 pm. (AT2-41168-2)

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PASSPORT No. E-093451, Abdul Jalil, father, Abdul Sattar, P.S. Chhagalniya, Dist-Fari, Bangladesh. Tele. 4845772. (AT2-41172-3)

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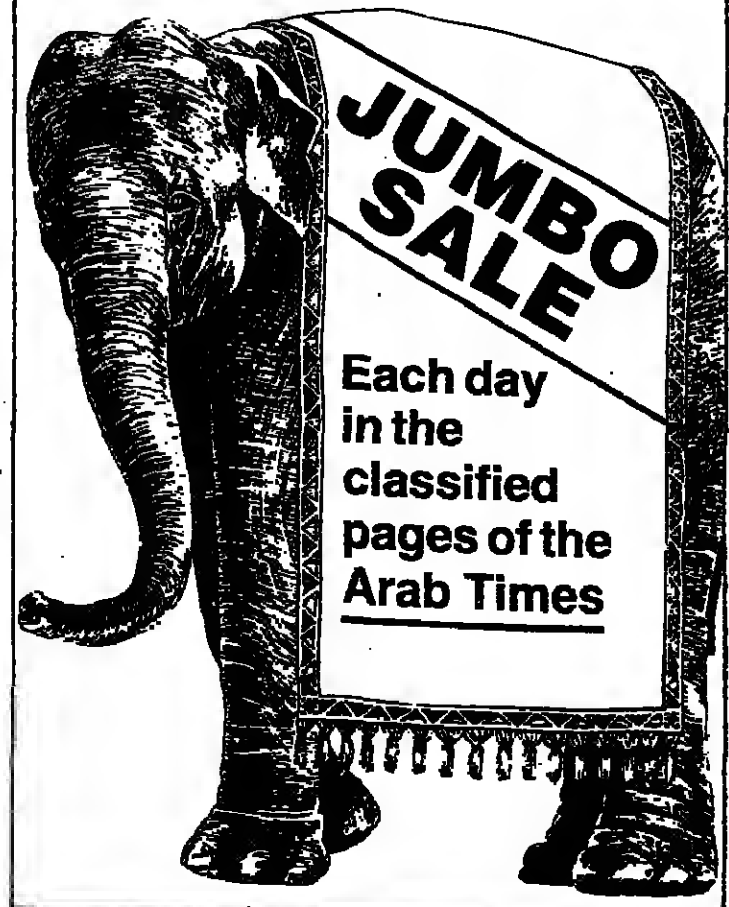


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Winter Games close with a burst of glitz and colour

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 28, (AP) The Winter Olympics, which opened with a folksy salute to Canadian traditions, closes today with a high-tech burst of glitz and colour on an outdoor skating rink.

Springlike temperatures of recent days threatened to fizzle the finale, but the weather promised to oblige.

The show will be illuminated from a computer-controlled lighting system made up of thousands of powerful bulbs mounted on four towers seven stories tall.

"This is it. This is the biggest show in the world. How many other shows play to 2.5 billion people?" said Marc Raymond, handling the lighting of the show at McMahon Stadium. "It's going to be a burst of colour."

Just as they did with the opening ceremony, organisers are keeping details of the closing a secret.

What is known is that it involves hundreds of skaters, including US Olympic gold medalists Dorothy Hamill and Scott Hamilton and Canada's Toller Cranston, a bronze medalist in 1976.

There also will be fireworks, a flag exchange between the mayor of Calgary and mayor of Albertville, France—site of 1992 Winter Games. The Olympic flame which burned for 16 days also will be extinguished.

The ice inside McMahon stadium had to be protected from several days of 10-degree C (50-degree F) weather by a layer of plastic foam.

The skaters weren't worried about the condition of the ice, but the possibility that winds would hamper their jumps and spins, said Leanne Pockar, an assistant working on the programme.

Windy conditions are very hard to deal with for skaters in a choreographed programme. With the costumes the skaters are wearing, a strong wind would make it very difficult for them to get into position quickly enough," she said. "We can handle anything but the wind."

Forecasts called for temperatures around freezing (32 degrees F) and for moderate winds of about 16 kph (10 mph).

Hoppe breaks course record in bobsled

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 28, (AP) Defending gold medalist Wolfgang Hoppe of East Germany broke the course record by more than a second yesterday to take the lead in the four-man Olympic bobsled competition at the midway point.

The final two heats will be held today, with the combined times of the four heats determining the winner.

Hoppe, 30, winner of the two-man and four-man golds at Sarajevo in 1984, took advantage of a good draw that had him going off third among the 26 sleds in the first heat, covering the 1,475-metre (4,838-foot) course in 56.16 seconds to beat the course record of 57.25 set last month by Canadian driver Chris Lori.

Sixteen sleds were below the record on the first run, which began two hours early at 8 a.m. local time, as organisers tried to avoid the mid-weather problems that delayed last weekend's two-man event.

The track slowed noticeably for the second heat, in which no one bettered Lori's old mark. But Hoppe—this time racing in the middle of the track—had the second-fastest time of the heat at 57.31 for a first-place total of 1:53.47.

Janis Kipours, the Soviet driver who beat out Hoppe for the gold medal in last weekend's weather-beaten two-man event, was second today in 1:54.00, followed by a pair of Swiss drivers, Ekkehard Fusser in 1:54.20 and 43-year-old Hans Hiltbrand in 1:54.30.

A US sled driven by veteran Brent Rushlaw was a surprising fifth in 1:54.39.

The United States hasn't won a bobsled medal since taking a bronze in 1956 and wasn't expected to contend this year because of international dissension and an uneven sled-development programme.

Badminton line-ups

CHEL TENHAM, England, Feb. 28, (Reuters) Sweden became the eighth and final team today to qualify for the Thomas Cup badminton finals for men starting in Kuala Lumpur on May 23.

Sweden beat the Netherlands 3-2 in Amsterdam to join England and Denmark as the three qualifiers from Europe.

In the Uber Cup for women the Netherlands beat Sweden 3-2 today to qualify with fellow Europeans England and Denmark who secured their finals places yesterday.

DEBI THOMAS WILTS UNDER PRESSURE

Witt retains Olympic figure skating title

CALGARY, Feb. 28, (Reuters) Katarina Witt of East Germany retained her Olympic figure skating title but the "duel to Carmen" did not match its billing as Debi Thomas wilted under pressure last night.

Witt turned a triple jump into a double but was otherwise flawless, though her scores left Thomas room to take the title.

But the American erred on her opening combination jump and two more mistakes ruined her gold medal chances. "After I didn't land that combination, I lost heart a bit. I just didn't want to stay out there any more," Thomas said.

Petite Canadian Liz Manley won the free skating final to take the silver medal, relegating Thomas to third place.

Witt and Thomas both skated to music from the Bizet Opera,

which they selected independently.

Witt, who has also won six European and three world crowns, became the first woman to retain the Olympic title since Sonja Henie of Norway captured her third in succession in 1936.

"I am very proud about this," she said. "I wanted to repeat what I had done because it has been a long time. And I think it could be a long time until someone does it again."

Happy
"When I skated my programme I was happy about it and about the jumps. But I thought when I didn't do the triple loop but only a double that if Debi did all her jumps she could win."

"But it didn't happen. I saw she was very nervous. She showed she is really human, not 'invincible' as some papers said."

She can make mistakes under pressure and is not a miracle."

Both Witt and Thomas agreed that skating last night—Thomas had to do—was difficult. "It's hard to do that, though I did it (at the world championships) in Cincinnati last year," Witt said.

Witt, slightly tipsy and giggling repeatedly after needing a bottle of beer to satisfy doping control, said: "I feel happy because I feel I deserved this victory. I feel that I did all three parts of the competition well and I think it is fair that I got the gold medal."

Moved up
Witt was third, one behind Thomas, in the compulsory figures and won the short programme as she and Thomas moved up to first and second. But the margin was significant and the free skating winner was certain to take the gold.

Witt finished with 4.2 points to 4.6 for Manley and 6.0 for Thomas.

Manley, did four triple jumps, the same as Witt, in a sparkling programme which took her from third to second.

She was bubbling afterwards. "With Debi and Katarina getting the attention, I was off doing my own thing and I've felt very relaxed this week."

Combination
"I knew I had trained right and was on schedule to do well here," added Manley, considered an inconsistent skater in the past.

Thomas two-footed the landing on the second jump in her combination of two triple toe loops, fell off the landing of a triple loop and put a hand down to save herself on a triple salchow.

"When I don't land the first combination, it's always hard for

me," she said. "I tried and gave it everything I had. It just wasn't there."

"I'm glad it's over and I can get on with my life. Now it's back to school," added the California medical student.

Medal standings

CALGARY, Alberta Feb. 27, (UPI): Medal standings after Saturday's events.

	G	S	B	Tot
Soviet Union	11	9	7	27
East Germany	9	5	2	16
Finland	4	0	2	6
Sweden	4	0	1	5
Switzerland	3	5	6	14
Austria	3	4	2	9
West Germany	2	4	2	8
Holland	2	2	2	6
United States	2	1	3	6
Italy	2	1	2	5
France	1	0	1	2
Norway	0	3	2	5
Canada	0	2	3	5
Yugoslavia	0	2	1	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
Japan	0	0	1	1



Katarina Witt skates to a gold in the women's long programme.

Narrow win in men's slalom

Tomba digs gold again in ski race

MOUNT ALLAN, Alberta, Feb. 28, (AP) Alberto Tomba made good on his boasts, coming from behind to narrowly win the men's slalom yesterday and become the first Italian skier to ever win two gold medals at a Winter Olympics.

"La Bomba" (the bomb), who was third after the first run, posted the second-fastest time in the 61-gate second series, 47.85 seconds. His aggregate time of 1 minute, 39.47 seconds nipped Frank Woernld of West Germany by six-hundredths of a second.

Edge
Woernld, who had a 0.63-second edge over Tomba after the first run, was nearly a full second slower than the 21-year-old Italian superstar in the second series and had to settle for the silver in 1:39.52.

Paul Frommelt finished third in 1:39.84 to take the bronze. Liechtenstein's first medal of these Games.

The large Italian contingent cheered and waved flags after Tomba, 13th to start the second run, finished the course.

They broke into tumult when Jonas Nilsson of Sweden, who had been second after the first run, and Woernld failed to beat his time. The wild celebration was similar to the exultations



Tomba hits a gate during the men's slalom race.

that followed his victory on Thursday in the giant slalom.

Bernhard Gstrein of Austria finished fourth in 1:40.08, followed by longtime Swedish star Ingemar Stenmark. He was a distant 11th after the first run, but recaptured some of his past glory to clock the quickest second heat of 47.51 to wind up fifth in

1:40.22.

Nilsson was sixth in 1:40.23. Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, who already owns a gold and bronze medal at these Games, was seventh in 1:40.48.

The race was shown live on government television in Italy, where Tomba's first gold medal performance drew a record

audience and triggered a nationwide outbreak of "Tomba mania" of proportions usually reserved for major soccer victories.

But other Italian journalists, including those working for the two main news agencies, began a strike yesterday that was to last until tomorrow morning.

Tomba, who already had been promised a new Ferrari sports car by his father after winning the gold in the giant slalom on Thursday, earlier clinched the World Cup slalom title by winning four of five races this season.

He had been confident of victory on the eve of the race, saying: "It will be easier than in giant slalom, trust me."

It didn't turn out to be that easy, however. On Thursday, he had beaten Austria's Hubert Strolz by more than a second in giant slalom.

Softened
Woernld, a 28-year-old customs officer who finished 10th in this event at the 1980 games but did not make the West German team in 1984, benefited from his No. 1 starting position yesterday in the first run on a course softened by warm temperatures.

He won the slalom at the 1987 World Championships but never has finished first on the World Cup circuit.

Flying Dutchwoman doubles her pleasure with a skating victory

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 28, (AP) Yvonne Van Gennip, the flying Dutchwoman who enjoys beating East Germany's top speed skaters, doubled her pleasure last night with a victory in the 1,500 metres.

Two months after surgery on her right foot, the 23-year-old Van Gennip won her second gold medal of the Winter Olympics by mastering the 3-3/4 laps of the indoor Olympic oval in an Olympic-record 2 minutes, 0.68 seconds.

Most ever
Karen Kania of East Germany won the silver to give her three medals here and eight overall in her three Olympics, the most ever by a female speed skater.

Teammate Andrea Ehrig took the bronze in 2:01.49 to go along with the silver she earlier claimed in the 5,000.

Last Tuesday, Van Gennip, who specialises in the middle distances, won the 3,000 metres with a world record and then said she enjoyed beating East Germans, who have been the dominant power in women's speed skating since 1984.

The 1.67-metre Haarlem resident noted that the East German skaters had rated her a likely winner after they left the scene, but said she wanted to prove she could do that now.



Van Gennip races to her second gold in women's 1,500 metre speed skating.

But thanks to Van Gennip, the East Germans have managed only one gold medal in the four women's events completed here, when Christa Rothenburger won the 1,000 metres on Friday night.

Van Gennip's time last night beat the Olympic mark of 2:03.42 set by Kania in 1984 but was short of the world record of 1:59.30 that the East Germans established in 1986.

"It was only the third of nine speed-skating events so far that a world record was not set. The 26-year-old Kania, who

has been bothered by a throat infection, finished in 2:00.82. She had gold medals at 500 metres and 1,000 metres in 1980 and in the 1,500 in 1984, then has added a bronze and two silvers here.

She has not said whether she will enter today's 5,000 metres, which is not one of her strongest events.

American Bonnie Blair, the gold medalist at 500 metres and a bronze medalist at 1,000 metres, started quickly but faded in the final 400 metres to lag well behind in 2:04.02.

Lineker gives Barcelona upset win

MAORID, Feb. 28, (Reuters) Two goals by England international Gary Lineker helped Barcelona stage an upset win against Atletico Madrid while Spanish soccer League leaders Real Madrid were held to an away draw by Sevilla.

Barcelona's win yesterday was a big blow for second-placed Atletico's hopes of catching up with Real who, despite stumbling against Sevilla, now sit on a comfortable six-point lead.

Dramatic
Barcelona, who had looked in danger of being overwhelmed in the first half hour, came alive in dramatic fashion in the 31st minute when West German midfielder Bernd Schuster broke away down the left wing before crossing the ball for Lineker to slam into the net from close quarters.

Eight minutes later Lineker

came close to scoring again with a shot from just inside the penalty area but Atletico's goalkeeper Abel Resino managed to deflect the ball for a corner.

Atletico's attacking trio of Julio Salinas, Marcos Alonso and Portuguese star Paulo Futre, who had looked dangerous in the opening stages were unable to find a winning combination.

Lineker put the result beyond contention 10 minutes after the interval when he took advantage of a mistake by Atletico defender Juan Arceche to break through and fire a shot past Resino.

Barcelona coach Luis Aragonés pulled off Lineker to rest the striker ahead of Barcelona's UEFA Cup quarterfinal first leg clash away against Bayern Leverkusen next week. Former Real player Cholo Ruiz helped put Sevilla ahead

against the champions after half an hour with a shot which Real goalie Paco Buyo fumbled and dropped before Sevilla striker Jose Salguero pounced and netted the ball.

Equaliser
Real midfielder star Emilio Butragueno scored a brilliant equaliser shortly after the interval, running on to a pass from Gordillo and sending a rising shot past Sevilla's goalkeeper.

Despite taking complete command of the midfield, Real, who face Bayern Munich in a European Cup quarterfinal next week, could not clinch the winner against a determined Sevilla side. Three goals by Sebastian Losada, on loan from Real Madrid, helped sweep Espanol to a 4-2 victory over Real Valladolid.

Bayern Munich rout FC Homburg

BONN, Feb. 28, (Reuters) Roland Wohlfarth scored twice to lead Bayern Munich to a 6-0 rout of FC Homburg in a depleted West German soccer programme yesterday.

But the second-placed Bavarians were unable to gain ground on leaders Werder Bremen, who defeated Bochum 1-0. Werder have conceded only nine goals in 21 games.

Cologne remained in third place with 30 points, one behind Bayern, after managing only a 1-1 draw against lowly Bayer Uerdingen.

Five games were postponed because of snowy, cold weather or illness. Yesterday's only other game was Kaiserslautern's 5-2 victory over Schalke.

Bayern tuned up for their European Cup match against Real Madrid next Wednesday by overwhelming bottom-placed FC Homburg in front of only 8,500 freezing fans at Munich's Olympic stadium.

Wohlfarth opened the scoring in the eighth minute but Homburg held the Bavarians until the second half when they exploded with five goals in less than 25 minutes.

Andreas Brehme scored from a deflected drive in the 54th minute and Lothar Matthaeus followed with a penalty three minutes later. Hans Pflueger, Wohlfarth and Michael Rummenigge, then scored in the 72nd, 77th and 78th minutes respectively.

Frank Ordenewitz scored for Werder in the opening minute to

give the visitors their 15th victory of the season before 15,000 spectators.

In Krefeld, Pierre Littbarski converted a penalty for Cologne in the ninth minute but Robert Prytz did the same for Uerdingen five minutes later to salvage a draw.

And in Kaiserslautern, Wolfgang Wittke scored three goals to spearhead the home side's triumph over Schalke.

● In Brussels, new coach Raymond Goethals failed to make an immediate impact on Belgian champions Anderlecht who crashed to another disappointing defeat yesterday four days before the first leg of their European Cup quarterfinal against Benfica of Portugal.

Anderlecht called on Goethals, who has coached the club before and also the Belgian national team, after they dismissed Georges Leekens on Tuesday following a run of poor results.

But they lost 2-1 at home against Beerschot, a defeat compounded by the sending off of Dutch defender Adri Van Tiggelen for punching Beerschot striker Dirk Goossens in the face.

Tennis finals

METZ, France, Feb. 28, (Reuters) Results in the finals of the Lorraine Open tennis tournament in Metz today.

Men's singles:
Jonas Svensson (Sweden) beat Michiel Schapers (Netherlands) 6-2, 6-4.

Royal Sporting reach quarterfinals of KMS soccer tourney

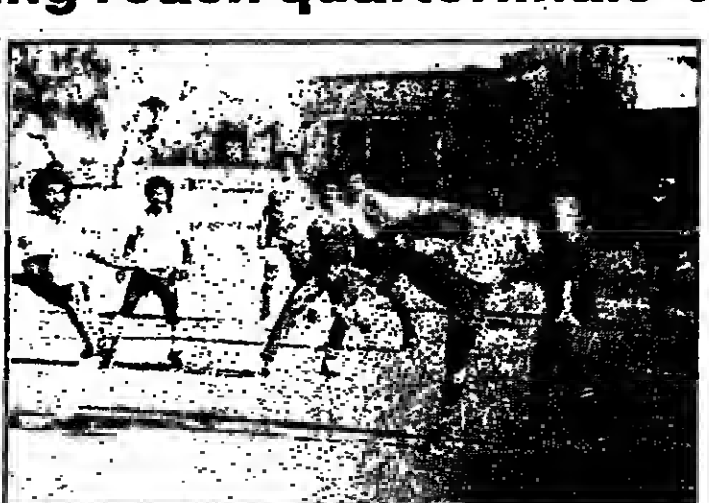
ROYAL Sporting entered quarterfinals of the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam Trophy beating United Sporting Club (White) in the first of the three matches played at Fahaheel grounds on the Kuwait National Day.

The only goal of this Group O match was scored by Camillo Gonsalves of Royal Sporting in the 20th minute of the second half. USC players struggled hard individually but lacked as a team. Benny and Mohd Kunhu defended their goal area well and goalkeeper Najmuddin was seen ever vigilant at the goal mouth.

Triggered
Taha and Sahajan triggered few penetrative moves from the midfield but the forwards could not respond to this promptly. Royal Sporting displayed better ball control and combination in the second half.

In the second match, Week End Sports Club subdued Indian XI from Group C in a 2-0 encounter. While right out Mustafa scored the first goal, central forward Andrew Fernandez increased the lead. Indian XI lost all hopes when Barreto and Joaquim D'mello wasted two golden chances to equalise.

The Group A group match, United Goan Strikers established their supremacy defeating Al Shaab Sporting Club scoring a pair of goals to nil. In the 25th minute, Joseph Salama's header over the Al Shaab goalkeeper Said Alavi as he had advanced, gained their first goal.



A match in progress between USC and Eleven Stars.

A ruffie at Al Shaab goal area in the 10th minute of second half earned a penalty kick for United Goan Strikers and Joseph again made no mistake in scoring the second goal.

Referee's decision of the penalty was silently questioned by the Al Shaab players and few of the spectators, but the play continued undisturbed. Further foul call by the referee against Al Shaab and a free kick awarded to UG Strikers at the opposite goal area in the 15th minute led to invasion of the field by a few outsiders and stoppage of play.

UG Strikers was declared as winner of the match as Al Shaab left the field refusing to continue with the play.

Al Shaab had put up a tough fight throughout the match but

UG Strikers rightly deserved the victory and outshone the opponents in all aspects of the play.

In Friday's first match, XI Stars scored 4 goals in the tie-breaker which United Sporting Club (Blue) shot in only 3 and accepted their defeat (4-3). This match went in to extra time, of course goal-less, and ended in a penalty shoot-out, for the first time in the tournament. Although through penalty shoot out, USC (Blue) is the only team among all the losers of the 10 matches played so far who could score against winners here.

Invading
The match started by Eleven Stars invading the United Sporting Club goal area. A powerful shot by Ruzar of XI Stars went over the bar by inches. Both

teams invaded either goal areas frequently.

The second half started by USC (Blue) penetrating the XI Stars defence. Had the hallet shot by Nissar of USC not gone above the bar marginally, the game would not have gone into the extra time. Again in the 15th minute of second half Tony Sebastian's beautiful header connecting a corner kick by Cherian Mampully of USC rebounded off the post. Right out Johnson pounced on the rebound and fired a shot which grazed the post and went out.

Mathews in the defence shyly warded off all the attacks by XI Stars' forwards. USC goalkeeper Jacob had a difficult time but he was in good form.

In the second match, from Group B, Rising Boys ousted YMCA from the tournament. Mostly of young school boys, YMCA, put up a valiant fight and often invaded the opponent's goal area. The lone goal of the match was scored by Andrew Fernandez of Rising Boys in the last minute of the first half.

Matches were supervised by referees from Indian Football Referees Association (IFRA).

Next Friday, March 4, three matches will be played. Vandana Sports will meet XI Stars at 6.30 a.m. Boys Own Club plays United Goan Strikers in the Group A quarterfinals (8.00) and O'Assisi Boys will face Week End Sports Club at 9.30.



The Rising Boys team.

Queensland beaten for second time

SYDNEY, Feb 28, (Reuters): A class 73 off 84 balls by in-form Test opener David Boon inspired Tasmania to an easy five-wicket victory over Queensland in the McDonald's Cup limited overs competition in Launceston today.

Tasmania coasted to 151 for five from 40.4 overs after Queensland managed only 150 for eight in their 50 overs, despite not having to face the injured Dennis Lillee.

Medium-pace Rodney Tucker did the damage for the Tasmanians with four for 31 in his 10 overs.

It was Tasmania's second victory over Queensland in two days, following their shock 94-run success in the Sheffield Shield yesterday — their first win in 44 Shield games since 1983-84.

In Adelaide, Victoria beat South Australia by six runs, restricting the Cup holders to 226 for six after Gary Watts' 81 helped them to 232 in 49.5 overs. Man-of-the-match Paul Jackson took four for 26 in his 10 overs for Victoria.

Today's games helped decide which four teams from two preliminary groups of three progress to the semifinals.

Results

To Launceston: Queensland 150 for eight in 50 overs, Tasmania 151 for five in 40.4 overs (David Boon 73). Tasmania won by five wickets.

In Adelaide: Victoria 232 all out in 49.5 overs (Gary Watts 81), South Australia 226 for six in 50 overs (James Pyke 76). Victoria won by six runs.

SPORTS BRIEFS

GCC tournament

RIYADH, Feb 28, (Kuna): Kuwait's national football team arrived here today accompanied by head of the Kuwaiti Football Federation Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed to take part in the ninth GCC tournament which opens on Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti delegation was received by head of the tournament's Organising Committee Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and senior Saudi sport officials.

Luton beat Oxford

LONDON, Feb 28, (Reuters): Brian Stein and Ashley Grimes struck with two beautifully-taken first-half goals today as Luton beat Oxford 2-0 to clinch their place in the English League Cup final.

The victory secured a 3-1 aggregate triumph for Luton and ensured their first appearance in a Wembley Cup final since 1959. They will meet Arsenal on April 24.

Kenyan wins

NAIROBI, Feb 28, (Reuters): Kenya's world 10,000-metre champion Paul Kipkoech won his country's selection meeting yesterday for the World Cross Country Championships, clocking 35 minutes 33 seconds over the 11.8 km course.

Moses Tanui was second in 35:36 with world cross country champion John Ngugi third in 35:49.

Delhi marathon

NEW DELHI, Feb 28, (Xinhua): Muralidhar and Asha Agarwal yesterday won the men's and women's titles of the Delhi marathon respectively.

Muralidhar was timed in two hours 22 minutes 0.6 seconds, followed by Harphool Singh and Ajmer Singh who finished second and third respectively in 2:26.03 and 2:28.25.

Soviets win

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Feb 28, (Reuters): The Soviet Union, inspired by their top long distance runner Olga Bondarenko, led from start to finish to win the Yokohama women's relay road race today.

The Soviet team covered the 42.1-km (26-mile) six-leg relay course in two hours 15 minutes 41 seconds, breaking the course record set by a Norwegian team in 1986 by 61 seconds.

Bridge

HUBARA bridge results played on Saturday.

N/S: 1st Mrs Sandra and Mr Imran.

2nd Mrs Jamila Akl and Mr Nabil Akl.

3rd Nabeel Akl and Laila Murtuza.

E/W: 1st Carpi and Wrester.

2nd Chowdhary and Gazza.

3rd. Ebrahim and Khalid Kabba.

NEW ZEALAND LOSE FIVE WICKETS AFTER TEA

Breakthrough gives England a chance to win

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28, (Reuters): England captured five New Zealand wickets after tea on the fourth day of their second cricket Test and now have a chance of winning the match tomorrow.

New Zealand had been looking for a prospect of a declaration around lunch.

But after putting on 117 for the first wicket, they lost openers John Wright, Trevor Fraer and captain Jeff Crowe, effectively ending any prospect of a chase for quick runs.

The home side was 154 for five at the close with Mark Greatbatch on six and Martin Snedden yet to score. New Zealand have a lead of only 132.

The loss of Martin Crowe and

Ken Rutherford just before the close put New Zealand in a precarious position.

Graham Dilley began the collapse when he ended New Zealand's 117 opening stand by bowling Trevor Franklin for his tea-time score of 62.

Neal Radford then had Wright caught behind by Bruce French for 49, picking up his first wicket of the match.

Franklin's innings was more attractive, punctuated with strong drives off the front and back foot.

His maiden Test half century was a personal triumph for Franklin who was so badly injured by a baggage trolley at London's Gatwick Airport in 1986 that doctors thought he might never

play again. He was chosen for the first Test even though he was not able to run completely freely.

The New Zealand openers had been in complete control with none of the England bowlers presenting any particular problems.

Long spell

Off-spinner John Emburey had a long spell before and after lunch but he failed to extract significant turn. England's attack lacked variety and it seems the visitors erred by not including spinner Eddie Hemmings.

But the dismissal of Jeff Crowe for one with the New Zealand score on 119 saw England suddenly come on top.

Jeff Crowe, who has been out of form throughout the season and whose place in the side must

now be in jeopardy, elected to come in before his brother Martin. He was lashed to Dilley playing on shot to Dilley's slower ball.

Despite the initial breakthrough England captain Mike Gatting did not really attack. Mark Greatbatch's first scoring stroke was a snick where third slip normally stands.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 301
ENGLAND first innings 154
M. Moxon c J. Crowe b Chatfield 99
C. Broad c M. Crowe b Bracewell 59
T. Robinson c Morrison b Bracewell 54
M. Gatting c Smith b Morrison 42
N. Fairbrother c Smith b Chatfield 1
D. Capel c Bracewell b Morrison 5
J. Emburey c Smith b Chatfield 45
B. French c Franklin b Bracewell 13
P. Jarvis c Smith b Snedden 10

N. Radford b Chatfield 8
G. Dilley not out 28
Extras (lb-12 b-12 nb-5) 29
Total 323

Fall of wickets: 1-27 2-135 3-211 4-228 5-222 6-234 7-267 8-282 9-308.

Bowling: Morrison 32-7-95-2 (50b), Chatfield 31-1-15-37-4, Bracewell 39-8-88-3, Snedden 34-14-71-1, Rutherford 5-1-8-0.

NEW ZEALAND second innings: T. Franklin b Dilley 62
J. Wright c French b Radford 49
J. Crowe lbw Dilley 1
M. Crowe lbw Jarvis 26
M. Greatbatch not out 6
M. Rutherford b Emburey 2
M. Snedden not out 0
Extras (lb-5 nb-3) 8
Total (for five wickets) 154

Fall of wickets: 1-117 2-119 3-119 4-150 5-153.
Bowling to date: Dilley 17-4-33-2, Jarvis 18-6-34-1, Radford 13-3-37-1 (30b), Emburey 17-15-38-1, Capel 5-1-13-0, Gatting 1-0-2-0.



Chatfield: four for 37

Mayotte to defend title

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Defending champion Tim Mayotte of the US and 16th seed John Fitzgerald of Australia posted straight set victories yesterday to reach the final of the \$602,500 US pro indoor tennis championships.

Mayotte, the second seed, recovered from 2-5 down in the second set to avoid a third set and eliminate sixth-seeded South African Christo Van Rensburg 6-2 7-5.

Finest

Fitzgerald, coquerer of world number one Ivan Lendl earlier in the week, kept up the finest play of his career by overwhelming unseeded Jorge Lozano of Mexico 6-1 6-4.

"I feel sharp all around. The ball is coming crisply off my racket," said the delighted Australian after the match.

Fitzgerald took the first set in just 21 minutes. He ran off the

first five games of the set, losing just four points.

Lozano clearly fought his way back into the match in the second set when he saved a match point and won the ninth game for 5-4.

The Mexican had four break points in the next game, but Fitzgerald was up to the challenge as he saved all four and held serve to win the 62 minute match.

Overpowered

"He overpowered me," said Lozano. "His style of play is a little deceiving. He doesn't seem like he hits the ball hard, but it is coming hard and he places it very well."

While Fitzgerald has played near the top of his game, Mayotte has struggled his way into the final.

"I thought last year I play some of the best tennis I ever played. I was doing everything better last year. This year I had to scrap my way through."

Teenager upsets Reggi

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb 28, (Reuters): Little-known teenager Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands upset third-seeded Italian Raffaella Reggi yesterday to set up a final against American Lori McNeil at the \$100,000 Oklahoma tennis tournament.

McNeil, the top seed, capitalised on a disputed call in the first set to capture the momentum and topple fourth seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-4 6-1.

The 15-year-old Schultz, rated 150th in the world, used a surprisingly powerful serve and strong forehand to beat the 18th-ranked baseliner 7-6 6-3.

McNeil's match turned on a disputed call at 4-4 in the first set. With the sixth game at deuce for the sixth time, McNeil hit a forehand that Lindqvist thought was long. The line judge ruled otherwise, however, and McNeil followed with an ace to win the game.

Evergreen beat Flying Arrows in Rahim League

A SUPERB 73 runs by Abdul Razzaq and a fine spell of spin bowling by skipper Asad Baig were the outstanding features which led Evergreen Cricket Club to subdue Flying Arrows Cricket Club in the Rahim League fixture played at Ahmadi ground.

Asad Baig winning the toss went into bat first through Razzaq and himself. The former was out at the total of 37 runs. Dr Asif joined Razzaq and took the total to 90 runs before being out at his individual 18 runs. Razzaq was severe at the other end.

Rana Ashraf who came in next started hammering from the start. However Razzaq was howled by Norbert at his individual 73 runs which contained 8 boundaries and a glorious six.

Rana Ashraf was a bit unfortunate to miss his half century by only one run and was bowled while trying to lift the ball out of the ground.

Haider was the other notable scorer who remained not out on 18 and Anjum Raza with 8 runs. Evergreen could muster only 184 runs for the loss of 4 wickets.

In reply Flying Arrows scored 50 runs at the end of the 11th over and Verold and Derek found no difficulty in facing the bowlers until skipper Asad Baig introduced himself. This move paid immediate dividends as he got the wicket of Derek. From then on it was Asad Baig who ran through Flying Arrows batting line-up. He got 5 wickets for only 35 runs. Baig was assisted by Shahid Maqbool who took 3 brilliant catches at the square leg.

Score
Flying Arrows scored 128 runs



Asad Baig: 5 wickets

In 23 overs after losing 7 wickets. Verold 30, Derek 23, Albert 13, Francis 12, Mukesh 11 and Norbert 13 were the other scorers who crossed double figures. Anjum Raza captured 2 wickets for 42 runs.

New Young Star win



Mohd Ishfaq: 5 for 17

NEW Young Star beat Golden Star by eight wickets at Church ground on Friday. Golden Star batting first scored 87 runs all out. The New Young Star's captain Mohd Ishfaq took five for 17, Nasir has two and Naqeer one.

Young Australia emulate seniors with an opening win

SYDNEY, Feb 28, (Reuters): Australia's young cricketers emulated their seniors with a crushing defeat of West Indies in the opening round of the first youth World Cup limited overs tournament in Mildura today.

Following Australia's victory in the World Cup in India and Pakistan last year, their under-19-year-old counterparts began in confident style with 112 by opener Brett Williams setting up their 73-run win.

Partnership

After an opening partnership of 141 Young Australia totalled 238 for five in their 50 overs.

West Indies were bowled out for 165 in 39.5 overs with leg-spinner Adrian Tucker taking four for 42.

Young India scored a thrilling two-wicket win over England in Renmark with only two balls to spare when Tailenders J Ramdas and Venkatapathi Raju put on an undefeated 40 for the ninth wicket.

Skipper Mike Atherton had earlier top scored with 80 as England reached 172 for eight but India responded with 177 for eight.

In the other matches, New Zealand scored 178 for nine to win by 12 runs over Sri Lanka who were dismissed for 166 in 47.4 overs and Pakistan beat an International Cricket Conference (ICC) Associates XI by five wickets.

The ICC side were dismissed for 163 in 49.2 overs and Pakistan replied with 166 for five in 35.2 overs.

The tournament continues tomorrow with the next stage of the preliminary round robin. The

first semifinal is on March 10 with the final three days later.

In Mildura: Australia 238 for five in 50 overs, innings closed (B. Williams 112, D. Playle 52). West Indies 165 in 39.5 overs (A. Tucker four for 42).

Australia won by 73 runs.

In Renmark: England 172 for eight innings closed (M. Atherton 80, M. Ramprakash 46). India 177 for eight in 49.4 overs (Senthilathan 47).

India won by two wickets.

In Berri: New Zealand 178 for nine innings closed (P. Doherty 40, S. Jaysuriya three for 34). Sri Lanka 166 in 47.4 overs (C. Mendis 43, Sri Lanka 166 in 47.4 overs (C. Mendis 43, A. Gale three for 30).

Pakistan won by five wickets.

Hadlee not available

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28, (Reuters): Star New Zealand all-rounder Richard Hadlee is not available for the third cricket Test against England starting on March 3, New Zealand Cricket Council chairman Bob Vance said.

Hadlee, who shares the world record with Ian Botham for 373 Test wickets, injured a calf muscle on the first day of the first Test in Christchurch.

Hadlee tried out his leg in net practice yesterday and later said he was far from fully fit.

It now appears Hadlee will have to go to India with the New Zealand team in October to take the record.

Hadlee said he would now consider touring India. He previously said he was not available for tours to the subcontinent.

Norman cruises to Canberra Open victory

CANBERRA, Feb 28, (Reuters): A bored Greg Norman gave every indication of returning to his deadly 1986 form when he raced to a seven-shot victory in the Royal Canberra Open golf tournament today.

The Australian finished 19-under-par on 269 with rounds of 62 70 69 and 68. After his stunning open round he admitted the last three days were "pretty boring."

A throat infection did not appear to trouble him today and he was never seriously threatened. The closest anyone came in the whole tournament was three shots and Norman completed his third win from five starts since November last year with the minimum of fuss.

Fired

West German Bernhard Langer, fired a final round 69 to slip into second spot ahead of veteran Australian Noel Ratcliffe who was two shots further back after a closing 70.

In Oahu, Hawaii, Japan's Ayako Okamoto began her 1988 season where she left off last year — with a one stroke victory over Americans Joanne Carner and Del Richard in the Hawaiian Open golf tournament yesterday.

Okamoto, the top money winner last year, scored her 12th LPGA tour victory when Carner missed a 12-foot putt on the last hole that would have forced a playoff.

Okamoto, who finished the 54-hole tournament with an even-par 72 for a three-under-par 213 total, was equally sure that a playoff was imminent.

Okamoto held a one stroke advantage until Carner birdied the par-five 16th to earn a share of the lead.

Advantage

Okamoto, who collected \$45,000 for the victory, regained a one stroke lead after the 17th hole to set up the dramatic final hole confrontation.

Beth Daniel, Kathy Postlewait and Australian Jan Stephenson were tied for fourth at one-under-par 215. Second round leader Joan Delk, fell out of contention early yesterday and finished at even-par 216.

In Pacific Palisades, California, Chip Beck, seven times a runner-up but over a winner on the US PGA tour, shot a six-under-par 65 yesterday to take a three stroke lead into the final round of the \$750,000 Los Angeles Open.

Beck, who joined the tour in 1978, stood at 14-under-par 199 after 54 holes, a record for three rounds at the 7,029-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club Course.

Three shots behind Beck at 11-under 202 were Jay Haas, one of three second round leaders, Ed Fiori and Australian Steve Elkington, who fired a five-under-par 66 despite a three-putt bogey on the final hole.

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6 cylinder — KD20
4 cylinder — KD18

4-6 cylinder — KD20
8 cylinder — KD25

Prices cover only Labour costs. New parts will be charged accordingly.

HPC HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Boats serviced will be cleaned and engines steam-cleaned.

Towing service provided for a nominal fee.